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TRUMP LAUNCHES RETALIATORY STRIKES ON YEMEN'S HOUTHIS

US President Donald Trump launched a large-scale military strike against Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis on Saturday, killing at least 31 people

BIGGEST US MILITARY OPERATION SINCE JAN

The strike was in response to the group's attacks against Red Sea shipping. The unfolding strikes—which one US official told Reuters might continue for weeks—represent the biggest US military operation in West Asia since Trump took office in January. The Houthis' political bureau described the attacks as a "war crime" | P9

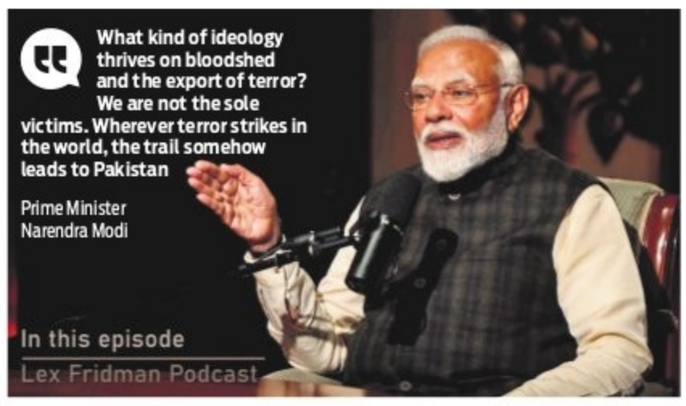
FAVOURED HOUTHI SPOTS TARGETED

- Residents in Sanaa said the strikes hit a building in a Houthi stronghold and "shook the neighbourhood like an earthquake".
- Strikes also targeted Houthi military sites in Yemen's southwest city of Taiz, and a power station in the town of Dahya, where Abdul Malik al-Houthi, the Houthi leader, often meets his visitors

101

PEOPLE INJURED IN THE STRIKES, MOSTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI


What kind of ideology thrives on bloodshed and the export of terror? We are not the sole victims. Wherever terror strikes in the world, the trail somehow leads to Pakistan
Prime Minister Narendra Modi
In this episode
Lex Fridman Podcast

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a podcast with Lex Fridman, in New Delhi | PTI

Pak's terrorist mindset hurting peace, says Modi

Islamabad must mend ways; disputes with China being worked out; Trump 2.0 stronger

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

EVERY noble attempt by India for peace with Pakistan was met with hostility and betrayal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in an interview with American computer scientist and podcaster Lex Fridman, broadcast on Sunday. "We sincerely hope that wisdom prevails upon them and they choose the path of peace," Modi said in his three-hour podcast.

"Wherever terror strikes in the world, the trail somehow leads to Pakistan," he said, citing the example of the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center in 2001. Osama bin Laden, the mastermind behind the attack, took refuge in Pakistan, he pointed out. Calling out Pakistan's 'terrorist mindset', he said: "Today, it stands as an epicentre of turmoil not just for India but for the world."

Modi recalled how he had specially invited the then Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif for his swearing-in ceremony in 2014 with the hope that the two countries could turn a new leaf. "Yet, every noble attempt at fostering peace was met with hostility and betrayal," he said.

On India's relations with China, he said differences are natural between two neighbouring countries. "But our focus is to ensure that these differences don't turn into disputes," he said, adding that India prefers dialogue to sort out differences.

Acknowledging the border dispute with China, he said efforts are on to address them through dialogue and consultation. "Slowly but surely, trust should return," he added.

Cooperation between India and China is beneficial not just for the two countries but also for global stability and prosperity, Modi noted. "Since the 21st century is Asia's century, we want India and China to compete in a healthy way. Competition is not a bad thing, but it shouldn't turn into conflict," he said.

When asked about his views on US President Donald Trump, Modi said in the second term, Trump seems "far more prepared than before", adding that he has a clear roadmap in his mind with well-defined steps.

K'taka's 'biggest' drug haul: 2 S Africans held, 37kg MDMA seized

VINCENT D'SOUZA @ Mangaluru

IN the biggest drug haul ever by the Karnataka police, 37.87 kg of banned MDMA worth about Rs 75 crore was seized by the Mangaluru City Police in Bengaluru. Two South African nationals—Bamba Fanta, alias Adonis Jabulile, 31, and Abigali Adonis, alias Odijo Evans, 30—have been arrested. The duo was intercepted at Neeladrinagar near Electronics City in the state capital on Saturday morning when they were allegedly on their way to supply the drugs to the peddlers. Both the accused were staying illegally in the country by furnishing fake passport and visa documents.

Explaining their modus operandi, Mangaluru City Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal said that the two women used to travel from Delhi to Bengaluru and Mumbai on late-night flights with the drugs packed in trolley bags, deliver it to peddlers in Nelamangala, KR Puram, Whitefield, Hoskote, Electronics City, and other places through cabs during early morning, and return. It is suspected that they were either procuring the drugs from outside India or somewhere near Delhi.

Accused Abigali Adonis & Bamba Fanta

As per initial reports, both the accused were in the drug cartel for more than one year. Bamba, who came to Delhi on a business visa in 2020, was involved in food cart business before she forayed into the drug business one-and-a-half years ago. Adonis landed in India on a medical visa in July 2020, got into some cloth business before she shifted to the drug business. Both of them were leading a lavish life.

Agrawal said that in the last year, the duo has made more than 50 trips from Delhi to Mumbai and Bengaluru to supply drugs. He, however, said that in Karnataka, they were supplying drugs to Bengaluru and had no connection with Mangaluru. P5

Minister: Kids shouldn't get property if they abandon their parents

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Medical Education Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil has called for the cancellation of property transfers and wills made in favour of children who later abandon their elderly parents in government hospitals. The issue was raised by Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences (BIMS) Director during a review meeting at Vikasa Soudha, who said that over 150 cases of elderly parents being deserted at BIMS was reported. Besides, it was also discussed that more than 100 similar cases have been found in other government medical colleges across Karnataka.

Following this, Dr Patil instructed all government medical colleges to report such cases and file complaints with assistant commissioners (revenue subdivision) so that legal action can be taken against those responsible. He also directed Director of Medical Education Dr BL Sujatha Rathod to take action.

Dr Patil said that under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, parents have the legal right to cancel property transfers if their children fail to take care of them. Under Section 23 of the Act, if a child takes property from a parent and then abandons them, the law allows for the property to be returned to the parent, he added.

The medical officers, during the meeting, highlighted that many elderly individuals say their children left them at hospitals on the pretext of treatment but never returned. Since hospitals provide food, clothing, and shelter, a few deliberately abandon their parents there. While some families cite financial difficulties, in most cases, the elderly were deserted after transferring property to their children.

So far, BIMS has relocated 70 elderly individuals to retirement homes.

'The atmosphere felt volatile and dangerous'

Fearing for life

Srinivasan says she had been blindsided by the entire turn of events. "I'm fearful that even the most low-level political speech ... can turn into this dystopian nightmare where somebody is calling you a terrorist sympathiser and making you, literally, fear for your life and safety"

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

ON the morning of March 14, US federal immigration agents arrived at the Columbia University apartment of Indian student **Ranjani Srinivasan** to detain her. She had recently found out from the US Consulate in Chennai that her student visa had been abruptly revoked by the US State Department. The 37-year-old Srinivasan, a Fulbright scholar pursuing a doctoral degree in urban planning, wasn't home. The agents didn't stop coming. The following night, they returned. By then Srinivasan knew what could be in store for her.

"The atmosphere felt so volatile and dangerous," Srinivasan told *The New York Times* in her first interview since fleeing. "I just made a quick decision."

She packed her belongings, left her cat with a friend, and caught a flight to Canada from LaGuardia Airport. Her roommate was left to face the immigration agents who persisted in their search for Srinivasan.

PIC: X

Hours later, Mahmoud Khalil, another Columbia student, was arrested from his apartment by authorities.

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said Srinivasan had voluntarily self-deported using the Customs and Border Protection Home App.

Srinivasan's ordeal is part of a larger, aggressive crackdown under the Trump administration aimed at pro-Palestinian demonstrators. She is one of several non-citizens at Columbia University who have found themselves targeted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement in recent days.

The DHS called Srinivasan a 'terrorist sympathiser' and accused her of supporting violence in support of Hamas. Her legal team denied the charges.

Srinivasan, who reached the US legally in 2016, is currently in Canada. It is not immediately clear if she plans to return to India soon.

EXPRESS READ

Gabbard to meet Modi, Doval during India visit

New Delhi: The US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard arrived in India on Sunday for a three-day visit. She is expected to call on Prime Minister Modi and hold talks with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval during her stay | P7

India, New Zealand to bolster defence ties

New Delhi: Coinciding with the visit of New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon to India from March 16-20, talks for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is back on the table. Both countries are also set to enhance defense cooperation during the five-day visit | P7

One student dies, 28 in hospital in suspected food poisoning

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mandya

IN a tragic incident, a 13-year-old student died and 28 more students took ill due to suspected food poisoning in an unauthorised hostel run by a private school in Malavalli taluk, Mandya district, on Sunday.

The victim has been identified as Kerlong from Meghalaya. According to the police, the incident took place in Gokula Vidya Samsthe in T Kagepura village.

According to initial reports, a businessman from Malavalli organised a feast for his relatives and friends as part of Holi celebrations and sent the leftover vegetable pulav and chutney to the hostel.

On Friday night, the hostel staff served the food to the students. On Saturday afternoon, the students complained of vomiting, diarrhea, and fever. The staff gave them ORS and medicines.

Mandya Superintendent of Police Mallikarjuna Baladandi told the media that on Sunday morning, the 13-year-old student—Kerlong—collapsed in the hostel while others expressed stomach pain and vomiting. The school authorities rushed them to a hospital where Kerlong was declared brought dead. CONTINUED ON P5

I have spoken to Mandya Deputy Commissioner and instructed him to arrange appropriate treatment for the children and take strict action against those responsible for the incident. The police have arrested three persons

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

Hafiz Saeed's close aide shot dead in Pakistan

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

A top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander, wanted by Indian security agencies for several deadly terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, was eliminated by gunmen in Pakistan, officials said on Sunday.

Zia-ur-Rehman alias Abu Qatal was gunned down in the Jhelum area of Punjab on Saturday evening. His security guard was also killed.

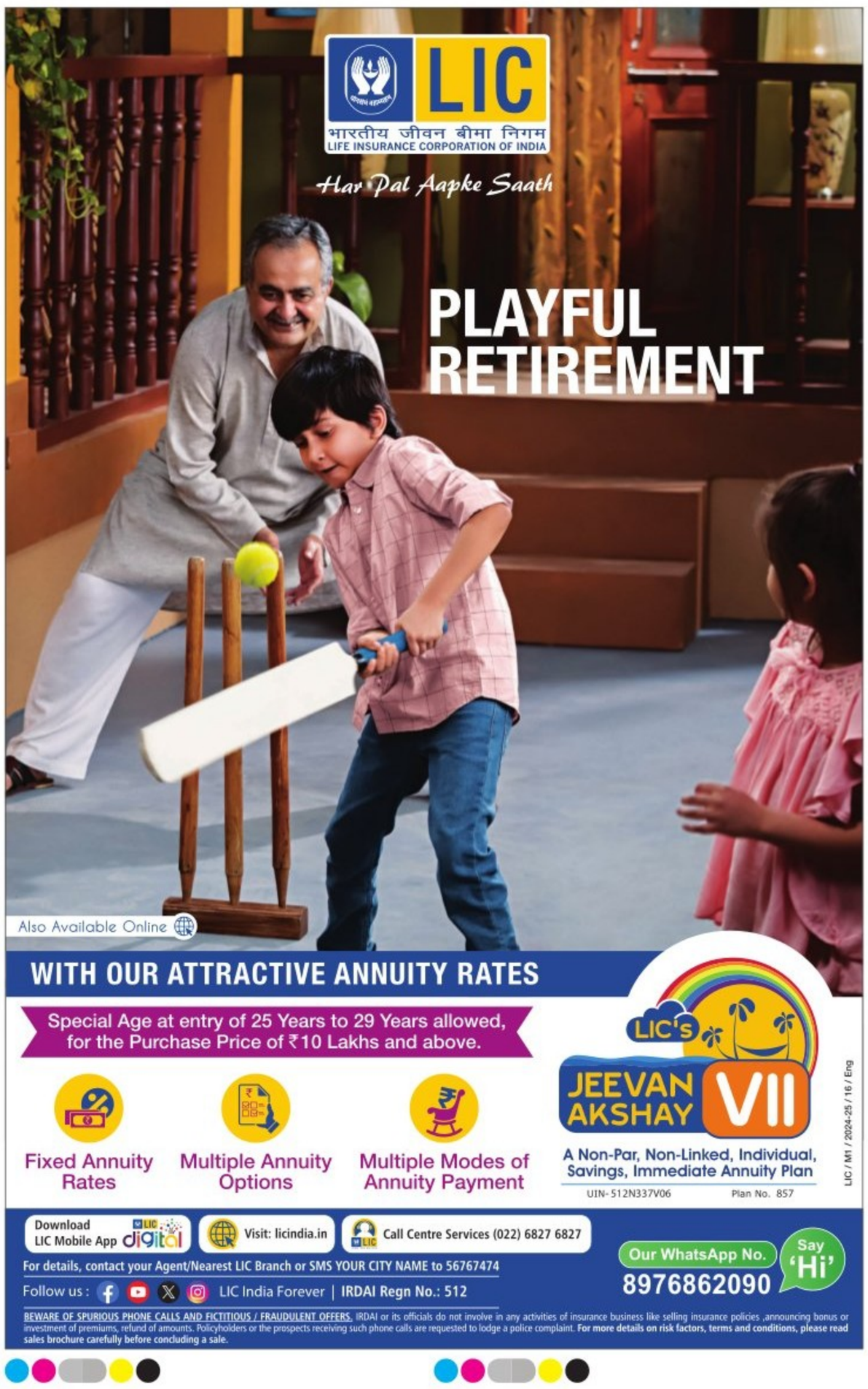
Considered the lead handler of LeT founder and 26/11 Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, 43-year-old Rehman led the LeT strategy in planning a string of attacks in Poonch-Rajouri of J&K.

Rehman was the architect behind the Dhangri attack of 2023, in which seven people were killed; the Reasi bus attack on June 9, 2024, in which nine pilgrims were killed and over 50 were injured, and the Bhatta-Durian attack on April 20, 2023, in which five Army personnel were killed.

Mangled remains of the vehicle that was attacked in Balochistan | X

5 killed in Balochistan

Five persons, including three Frontier Corps (FC) personnel, were killed and 30 injured after a paramilitary convoy was attacked by Baloch militants in Noshki district of Balochistan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ALMANAC TODAY

Monday: 17.03.2025 • Year: Krodhi • Ayana: Uttarayana • Ritu: Sishira • Masa: Phalguna • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Thrutheeya 4.39 pm • Nakshatra: Chittha 12.23 pm • Moon in Vrischika Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am • Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER | MIN 20°C | MAX 35°C | FORECAST: Scattered clouds

Sunrise 06.25 am | Sunset 06.30 pm | Moonrise 08.55 pm | Moonset 08.05 am

BMRCL EXTENDS FEASIBILITY STUDY TO EXPAND BY 197 KM

To be completed by July 2025; It will cover traffic analysis, stations, cost and sustainability factors

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is carrying out an exhaustive feasibility study that would expand its network by an additional 197 km. These stretches will be an addition to the 255-km that will be added to Metro in the near future from the present operational network of 76.95 km, said sources.

A senior official told *TNIE* that feasibility study was presently on along eight stretches, including the extension of the Airport Line to Devanahalli, which was announced by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in his budget recently.

The ongoing feasibility study covers the following stretches - Challaghatta to Bidadi in Ramanagara district- 15 km; Silk Institute to Harohalli (Kanakapura) - 24 km; Kalena Agrahara - Bannerghatta National Park-Jigani-Anekal-Attibele-Sarjapur-Varthur-Kadugodi Tree Park - 68 km, Bommasandra to Atibele - 11 km and Madavara to Tumakuru - 52.41 km. Three more stretches totalling 27 km have been added just recently to the feasibility study, said the official. This extends from Kadabgere to Taverakere for 6 km (which will be an extension of Magadi Road line of Phase-3); a separate line branching from Chikkajala to Devanahalli (Airport Line) for 6 km and K R Pura to Hoskote for 15 km.

He added that BMRCL expects to complete the 197-km feasibility study by July 2025 and submit it to the State government. "It is upto the government to select whichever routes they feel is necessary. They are likely to select 50 percent of what we present. So that may be, 95 km to 100 km, which would increase the Metro network in future to up to 350 km," he said.

"The ongoing feasibility study would be an exhaustive one covering traffic analysis, stations, cost and sustainability factor and would be as elaborate as a Detailed Project Report (DPR). Only the Geo-technical survey will be missing in it," he said. Hence preparing the DPR after this study would not take much time and only involve adding a few aspects, the official said.

Present status and immediate future

BMRCL is gearing up to make its Yellow Line for 19.15 km from R V Road to Bommasandra operational within the next two to three months. The Pink Line from Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara, the Blue Line (comprising the Silk Board to K R Pura and the K R Pura to KIA) are in line next, which have a 2026 deadline. Phase 3 with two corridors from Kempapura to JP Nagar IVth Phase along ORR for 32.15 km and Kadabgere to Hosahalli via Magadi Road for 12.5 km has been approved by both the State and Central governments and the land acquisition process has begun. Phase -3A from Sarjapur to Hebbal planned for 36.59 km is yet to get the Centre's nod.

Mosque Rd faces the brunt due to roadwork this Ramzan

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

FRAZER Town's Mosque Road, once a bustling Ramzan food street, is witnessing a sharp decline in business this year due to ongoing roadwork. The area, which usually hosts around 150-200 food stalls during the festive season, has seen a nearly 80% drop in footfall as open drains and construction work have made the surroundings challenging.

When *TNIE* visited the area, the hotel owners told that the usual Ramzan rush has been missing this year. While mornings remain quiet due to fasting, evenings — when crowds typically surge — have been hit hard by roadwork. Lack of parking and poor road conditions have deterred customers, they said.

Mosque Road has seen nearly 80% drop in footfall due to the on-going road construction work | ALLEN EGENUSE J

Faisal from Charminar Kebab Paradise told *TNIE* that all the hoteliers, along with the Frazer Town Residents' Welfare Association, had repeatedly urged the authorities to speed up the work. "We were assured that the work would be completed before Ramzan, but with the slow progress and no sign of completion, we have now lost hope that it would be completed before Eid," Faisal said.

While some restaurants have cut down their menus only to Haleem and Kebabs to minimise losses, as owners say they are not expecting large crowds anytime soon, other hoteliers told *TNIE* that due to the ongoing issues, they have decided to shift their stalls to areas like RT Nagar, Nagawara, and Kammanahalli in an attempt to keep their businesses running.

Last year, neighbouring societies and various organisations in Frazer Town came together to demand a ban on the food festival as it was causing a traffic problem. While the ban on outdoor stalls continues this year, hotels have been allowed to set up stalls outside their establishments, provided they do not obstruct traffic. However, some hoteliers who tried to set up stalls outside their restaurants said that traffic police have been stopping them, citing that ongoing construction work has already been causing traffic disruptions and their stalls will add to the issue.

Mohmeen from Savera Restaurant told *TNIE* that during Ramzan, they usually rely on evening sales, as business is typically slow in the mornings. However, this year, they have been serving only around 80-100 customers even during peak hours. "People don't prefer ordering these dishes online because they are meant to be served hot and fresh. Since most customers want to eat them fresh, we cannot depend on online orders either," Mohmeen added.

Members of Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party participate in a rally and day-long fast against Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill by the state government, at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

BNP seeks amendments to Greater B'luru Bill

BENGALURU : The Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party organised a rally and day-long fast on Sunday at Freedom Park seeking amendment to key provisions of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill. The party is advocating for a feasible and effective decentralisation model that would reduce excessive MLA and state control in municipal matters. BNP aims to move the Governor and the Karnataka High Court, seeking structural changes that would allow greater citizen, councillor, and local representative involvement in city governance. These reforms would foster autonomous governance for Bengaluru, ensuring a more responsive and accountable administration. BNP founder and general secretary Srikanth Narasimhan questioned how the city would manage with multiple mayors or just one and stressed the importance of a balanced approach to decentralisation.

Collect pending property taxes for FY 2024-25: BBMP

AKNISREE KARTHIK @ Bengaluru

ALL the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) zonal officials have been instructed to take steps to collect the property taxes for 2024-2025 in their respective zones. They have been asked to visit the properties in their zones with dues and work towards collecting them. Of the target of Rs 5,210 crore, the civic body has been able to collect Rs 4,604 crore, reaching 88.36 per cent of the set target.

With just two weeks left for the financial year to end, the officials have been asked to take steps to collect Rs 606 crore and meet the revenue target. BBMP Special Commissioner Munish Moudgil has instructed the zonal officers to pay more attention to collect pending property tax dues in the city, directing them to visit the companies and commercial properties which have more property tax dues and to take necessary steps in collecting them, to reach the target set by the BBMP by the end of the month.

Among the eight BBMP zones, Yelahanka zone topped with 99.97 per cent property tax collection. The property tax collection for Yelahanka is Rs 445.24 crore of which Rs 445.15 crore has been collected. Bommanahalli zone is in the bottom of the list with a property tax collection of Rs 468.48 crore of the target of Rs 585.11 crore, achieving a target of 80.06 per cent, as per the data till March 14 accessed from BBMP.

Among the eight zones, Mahadevapura has the highest target of Rs 1,309.04 crore of which it has reached Rs 1,223.30 crore, reaching 93.45 per cent of its set target. BBMP officials maintained that they have undertook a slew of measures to recover the pending property tax dues, which include the One-Time Settlement Scheme and recovering taxes from long-pending tax defaulters by auctioning their properties. They expressed confidence of setting a new benchmark in property tax collection by aiming to cross Rs 5,000 cr this year.

FREE EDUCATION

Direct admission in Class 6 for deprived children

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

TO support underprivileged children, the Karnataka government has announced direct enrolment for children of child and bonded labourers and sanitation workers into residential schools under the Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS) for the academic year 2025-26. These children, currently studying in Class 5, will be admitted into Class 6 without the need for an entrance test.

As per the circular issued by the Labour Department on Saturday, 50% of the 41,500 seats in residential schools have been reserved for special category students, ensuring that 20,750 children receive direct admission. Among these, 10% of the seats will be specifically allocated for children of child and bonded labourers. Other beneficiaries include children of sanitation workers, manual scavengers, orphans, children with disabilities, HIV-positive parents or single parents.

These residential schools, operating under KREIS, provide free education in English medium along with food, accommodation, and essential learning materials, including uniforms, textbooks, notebooks, shoes, and stationery. Officials from the department told *TNIE* that this is launched with an aim to break the cycle of poverty and exploitation by providing quality education to vulnerable children.

To qualify for direct admission, students must be permanent residents of Karnataka and have passed Class 5 in a government-recognized school during the 2024-25 academic year. Parents or guardians must apply online through the official KREIS website and submit necessary documents.

'NO GOVERNMENT SUPPORT'

As children enter Class 9, parents of RTE students face financial strain

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

PARENTS of students admitted under the Right to Education (RTE) Act quota in private schools are worried as their children enter Class 9 this year. With no financial support beyond Class 8, the parents worry about the steep fees and whether they can sustain their child's education until Class 12.

Many of these parents, including auto and taxi drivers, daily wage labourers, and painters, told *TNIE* that without government support, their children's schooling might come to an abrupt end. They also highlighted that schools demand full payment within a month after the academic session begins, with no option for installments, making it even harder to manage expenses.

Stories of 500 excellent students under RTE to be compiled

To convince the government to extend the scheme until Class 12, Child Rights Trust activists told TNIE that they are compiling more than 500 success stories of RTE students from Karnataka who have excelled academically. Nagasimha G Rao, Director of the Child Rights Trust said that the number of students getting admission under Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, which requires private schools to reserve at least 25% of their seats for children from disadvantaged sections, is becoming low. The state must conduct a study to track where these children go after completing Grade 8. When TNIE reached out to the education department officials, they mentioned that the matter is already in discussion for a long time and that the move to extend the RTE may burden the government.

Karnataka was the first state in India to implement the RTE Act in the 2012-13 academic year. However, since then, requests to extend the provisions of the Act have remained pending.

"My daughter will soon be passing out of Class 8 this year. However, the school management has already started sending circulars, asking us to pay the fee for Class 9," Mohammed Pasha, an auto driver said.

Selvagam Mani, an auto driver, told that his son was not admitted in two schools as the management cited that his scores are less. "My son is an average student and has studied in a CBSE school. However, we could not continue with the same school as the fee structure for Class 9 was Rs 3.8 lakh and other CBSE schools refused to admit him, as they were concerned about their Class 10 results. Shifting to a different board was difficult for him, as the syllabus is different," Mani said.

With school fees in Bengaluru not being less than Rs 2.5 lakh in most schools, members of the RTE Parents Association questioned how they are expected to pay such high amounts. "If we could afford it, why would we have registered under RTE?" they argued.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

17TH March : This week's stars bring another of those celestial crunch points that we've become used to lately. Serious Saturn and intense Pluto are resuming their astronomical argument. But while it ups the tension, the advice is simple: be cautious, keep it cool and take it easy.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
It won't be long before you are completely free of financial worries, and the little crises along the way are just problems sent to annoy you. They are opportunities to get your act together, so that next time round you make a huge profit. Listen to younger relations.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
The truth will out! Eventually! Stormy celestial relationships follow one another with great frequency. This is hardly a relaxing prospect and most Taureans will be caught up in one stressful situation or another this week. The trick is to come out smiling.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Your wit and intelligence will be in much demand this week. You'll be called upon to be the arbiter in all sorts of disagreements, some of them important, others utterly pointless and insignificant. What seems like a waste of time now may turn out to have its uses a little way down the line.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Not for about four months have the stars achieved such a welcoming formation, encouraging partners to offer you full support. Although you are due to take another stunning leap forward over the coming two months, what happens may relate back to the events of long ago.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
It's a busy moment, but an imaginative one. You will soon be forced to take some fundamental measures affecting the very foundations of your life. Yet, while there will be a sense of urgency, it is unlikely that arrangements made now will prove hard and fast.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
In spite of your need for certainty, it is very difficult to make firm predictions this week other than to say that any disruption that does take place must be seen as part of a larger and definitely positive pattern. Communication breakdowns are possibly the major hazard.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
An unusual number of planetary influences are jockeying for attention. Expect a busy week. In fact, I think you should actively take on more than you can handle in the knowledge that even unlikely new commitments will become central to your affairs in the near future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Try to see the whole of the coming week in the round, reaching a peak around Wednesday or Thursday - or Friday. You should plan all your personal affairs with care and don't be alarmed if other people try to pull out of joint arrangements; it could be for the best.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
It's uncertain whether the main pressures on you this week will be completely illusory or, on the other hand, all too real. Therefore, you should take nothing for granted, but neither should you get too wound up over worries which may vanish when fresh light is shed on them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Once again, your stars are moving towards a major alignment that is going to shake up the entire world. You may see the exciting events in your own life over the next few months as part of a marvellous larger pattern, leading you to much greater personal satisfaction.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Major moves are afoot at home this week. I suspect that your priorities may be challenged, either by other people or by your own tendency to over-commit yourself. Aquarians in the caring professions will do best at work, and if you put other people first, then you will also gain.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
You're not always as soft as astrologers pretend. In fact, you have the cutting edge that other people just seem to lack. You are also more accomplished than usual, but do please remember to read instructions and heed directions. It's easy to be too impatient for your own good.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

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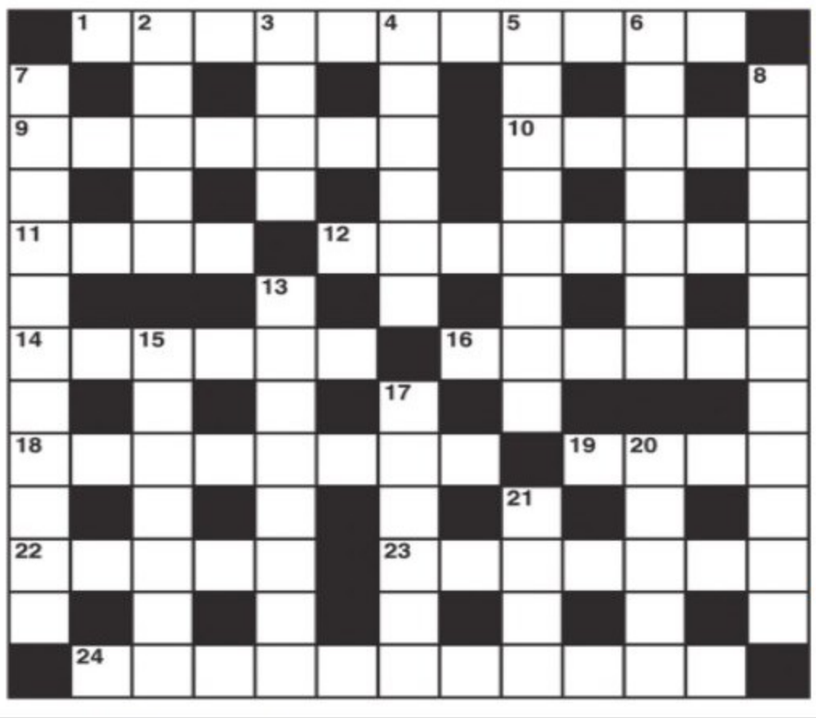
SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Ghana fits an unusual concept of Asian country (11)
9 How happy cowboys might be? (7)
10 Permit a chap on the base (5)
11 Too wrapped up in local society (4)
12 Window providing ventilation and illumination (8)
14 Worshipped bustle and colour (6)
16 Who had ordered a seat on a Jumbo? (6)
18 Each vies desperately and is successful (8)
19 It's a very good headlight (4)
22 Inside accommodation (5)
23 Learned man or learning youngster (7)
24 A patchy lot of comics? (6,5)

DOWN

2 Frustrates construction of fencing equipment (5)
3 Victor gets an embrace and a ring (4)
4 The country has no right to open a road (6)
5 All is not as it should be in the stud (8)
6 Maintained a member took part in a crooked deal (7)
7 Gain advantage with appropriate military music (5,1,5)
8 It may receive calls to change the management (11)
13 A setback resulting from several different reasons initially (8)
15 Shakespearean character (7)
17 The sound of the Beatles? (6)
20 Amid ragtag low life it's shining brightly (5)
21 Overcook the fish? (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Stocky, 4 Poetical, 9 Viewed, 10 Stingray, 12 To-do, 13 Sneak, 14 Pelf, 17 Moneylenders, 20 Self-portrait, 23 Even, 24 Trunk, 25 Teal, 28 Sideline, 29 Hold it, 30 Stressed, 31 Clerks.

Down: 1 Save time, 2 Overdone, 3 Keep, 5 Outward bound, 6 Tuna, 7 Carpet, 8 Lay off, 11 Interference, 15 Hyped, 16 Crate, 18 Calendar, 19 Athletes, 21 Versus, 22 Tender, 26 Alps, 27 Pool.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

AFDTR

LHYIL

ELTEBE

OCIDZA

So, what did you think? Does it feel smoother?
It was amazing! I didn't bounce out of my seat once.
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble
1/20
MAURICE HOUDAILLE'S CONCEPT FOR HYDRAULIC SHOCK ABSORBERS WAS ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

" "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: GRIND OOMPH FLAUNT EMERGE
Answer: They'd broken their mom's favorite clock. She'd find out - it was just a — "MAD-HER" OF TIME

POCSO accused dies by suicide in jail

An undertrial prisoner, arrested in a POCSO case, allegedly died by suicide in Mangaluru Sub-Jail on Sunday morning. The deceased, Prakash Gopal Moolya (43) of Moodbidri was arrested on March 11. As per preliminary information, the prisoner hanged himself using a towel tied to the window grill in the toilet of Barrack 'B', Cell No. 2

3 arrested over clash during holi at Lalbagh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Siddapura police have arrested three men in connection with a clash between two groups during holi celebrations at Lalbagh Botanical Garden on Friday.

The accused, Rakesh, Umesh and Ramesh from Nepal, all aged between 20 and 26 and working in hotels, were arrested on Saturday.

A senior officer said a video of the incident doing rounds on social media showed unidentified miscreants fighting with each other with sticks, sending onlookers into a panic, at the Lalbagh rock. Taking suo motu cognizance of the incident, the Siddapura police registered a case under Section 194 (affray - where two or more people fight in a public place, disturbing public peace) of the BNS. After analysing the video, the police arrested three of the accused so far.

The police said the accused were intoxicated and celebrating holi when a clash broke out between two groups leading them to attack each other with sticks. They also assaulted a street hawker. Panicked visitors in the garden alerted horticulture department officials, but the accused fled before they arrived. The police are also reviewing CCTV footage to identify and arrest the remaining suspects.

EXPRESS READ

DKS directs BBMP to crack down on flexes

Bengaluru: Ahead of the swearing-in of office-bearers of the Youth Congress, many flex banners were put up around Palace Grounds. Taking note, DCM DK Shivakumar directed BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath to take action against those who put up flexes and banners. He said action must be taken against those who do not fall in line even if the violators were from the ruling Congress. **ENS**

MISCHIEF-MAKER

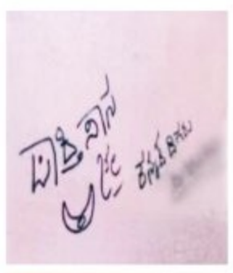
Pro-Pak slogans scribbled on factory walls

Kannada organisations stage protest; police register case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

TENSION prevailed at a factory belonging to a multinational company in the Bidadi industrial area on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Saturday after pro-Pakistan slogans were found scribbled on the restroom walls. The writing on the washroom walls was found on Friday night, and the photos were shared on social media. The next day, Kannada organisations staged a protest, the police said.

According to the police, some miscreants had written 'Pakistan Jai' and 'Victory to Pakistan' in Kannada. Along with this, offensive remarks against Kannadigas were also found. Following this, members of Kannada organisations gathered in front of the factory and demanded the arrest of the miscreants.



The police said as soon as they were informed, they rushed to the factory, inspected the restroom and gathered information from the management and workers. They also reviewed the CCTV footage from the factory. With over 3,000 employees working in the factory, the police suspect that some among them might be behind the mischief.

The police added that the factory management has put up a notice warning employees to refrain from such acts.

The Bidadi police have registered a case under Section 196 (actions or speech that promote disharmony, enmity, or hatred between different groups based on religion, race, language, or region, aiming to maintain social harmony and prevent public disturbances) and Section 353(2) (the act of making, publishing, or circulating false statements, rumours, or alarming news with the intent to create or promote enmity, hatred, or ill will between different groups) of the BNS, along with other sections of the IT Act.

APPU REMEMBERED

In a tribute to late actor Puneeth Rajkumar on his birth anniversary, a huge rangoli of Puneeth was made by artist Punith Kumar and his team in Mysuru on Sunday | S UDAYSHANKAR

Doc gets show-cause notice after video shows her assaulting in-laws

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

FOLLOWING a viral video showing Dr Priyadarshini N, an emergency medical officer at Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute's (BMCRI) Victoria Hospital, and her two children allegedly assaulting her in-laws, the Medical Education Department has issued a show-cause notice to the doctor, demanding an explanation.

Taking serious note of the matter, Principal Secretary to the Medical Education Department Mohammad Mohsin directed Director of Medical Education Dr Sujatha Rathod, to issue the notice. Dr Priyadarshini has been asked to submit a written explanation, failing which disciplinary action will be taken against her.

The incident, which reportedly took place at her in-laws' residence, sparked outrage. Despite filing for divorce, Dr Priyadarshini allegedly visited their home and physically attacked them. Mohsin said that such behaviour brings disrepute to the medical profession and that the department will not tolerate such misconduct.

Bank staffer, hubby among 4 held for defrauding elderly woman

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Girinagar police have arrested four people, including a woman deputy manager of a private bank, for allegedly defrauding an elderly woman of Rs 50 lakh. The accused have been identified as Meghana, the bank employee, her husband Shivaprasad and their friends Varadaraju and Anwar Ghosh.

The police said an elderly couple had a joint account and Fixed Deposit (FD) accounts at the private bank in Girinagar. Meghana learned that the couple had recently sold their house in Chamarajpet for Rs 1 crore and had deposited the amount in their bank account. During one of the visits by the elderly woman to the bank, Meghana told her that two of her FDs had matured and they need to be renewed. Later, Meghana visited the woman's house and obtained her signatures on multiple documents, including a Real-Time Gross Settlement(RTGS) form. Using this, she transferred Rs 50 lakh into her own account, the police said.

The fraud came to light when the elderly couple's son checked the bank balance on the mobile phone and found that Rs 50 lakh was debited. On checking with bank, he found that the money was transferred to another account. The family then filed a complaint with the police.

After a thorough probe, the police arrested the four and found that Meghana's husband and their friends were also involved in planning the crime and sharing the money.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.: CEE/TZ/HSN/SEE(O)/AE-2/2023-24/21795-800 Date: 12.03.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bids against **Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/TZH/GOODS/33kVCB/02. Indent no: KPTCL/202425/IND0169** for **"Tender for Design, manufacture, testing and supply of 10 no's of 33kV Circuit Breakers conforming to KPTCL technical specification, F.O.R.D at store/site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading".**

The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karanatka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **17.03.2025.** Other details can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electy., Transmission(Operations) Zone, KPTCL, 3rd Floor, Prasarana Bhavana, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan-573 201. Tel.: 08172-231051

IN THE COURT OF THE VI ADDL CITY CIVIL JUDGE, AT BANGALORE
P & SC No. 92/2025

Between:SRI. RAMA SHARAN SP, Son of Late S.G.Prakash, Aged about 55 years, Residing at # 8 Basaveshwara Road, Ucha Shrunga, Fullinfaws collage, Yellenahalli Akshay Nagar, Begur Road, Bengaluru -560114. ...PETITIONER
And:NIL ...RESPONDENT

Whereas the above named has made petition to this court under section 372 of Indian Succession act for the grant of succession certificate in favour of petitioner. The below mentioned schedule was held by Late Manjunatha S.P who expired on 09/01/2025 i.e the brother of Petitioner.

Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear before this court in person or by a pleader duly instructed on **02/04/2025 at 11am.** Inform to show cause against the petitioner failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declared as ex-parte.

SCHEDULE A PROPERTY

Sl.NO	Department of Posts INDIA Account No./ NSC No.	Amount Deposited	Maturity Date
1	020113512272	Rs. 1,00,000/-	13/04/2029
2	020113511750	Rs. 1,00,000/-	13/04/2029
3	020121416976	Rs.1,00,000/-	10/07/2029
4	020130682038	Rs.1,00,000/-	03/10/2029
5	020141066101	Rs.4,00,000/-	04/01/2030
6	020141068002	Rs.1,00,000/-	04/01/2030
7	020080755128	Rs.2,00,000/-	04/07/2028
8	020089328322	Rs.1,00,000/-	11/10/2028
9	020089329157	Rs.1,00,000/-	11/10/2028
10	020097346174	Rs.1,00,000/-	03/01/2029
11	SB A/c No.4291206257	Rs.15,631/-	NA
12	SB A/c No. 4287998968	Rs.43,667/-	NA
13	RD A/c No.4773420034	Rs.3,00,000/-	20/02/2025
14	RD A/c No.4778456731	Rs.3,00,000/-	05/03/2025
15	RD A/c No.4778669018	Rs.3,00,000/-	08/03/2025
16	RD A/c No.4778914217	Rs.3,00,000/-	09/03/2025
17	RD A/c No.4779166387	Rs.3,00,000/-	10/03/2025
18	NSC No. 4968970986	Rs.72,000/-	28/10/2025

SCHEDULE B PROPERTY

Sl	ACCOUNT NUMBER	BANK DETAILS
1	191000031555275	Fincare Small Finance Bank Basavanagudi Branch, Bangalore 560004 (IFSC Code FSFB0000001)
2	10130557026	IDFC First Bank Kengeri Satellite town Branch, Bangalore 560060 (IFSC Code IDFB0081176)
3	64043452757	SBI Vyalikaval Branch Bangalore (IFSC Code SBIN0040163)

SCHEDULE C PROPERTY

Sl No	PARICULAR NHA BOND DETAILS	No. of Units	AMOUNT
1	2159/701047/3/2025721	450	45,00,000/-

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 15th day of March 2025.

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bangalore

Address for service: Akshay Patil WE LAW Advocates
18/3, 13th Cross, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru-51

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LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
1st Floor, Jeevan Managal Building, Hayes Road, Bengaluru -560025. Ph.: 080-43003651

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Office of the M/S, LIC Housing Finance Limited the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of security Interest(enforcement) Rule 2002 issued demand notice on below mentioned date calling upon the borrower/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The Borrower having failed to repay the amount hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act with rule 9 of the said rules on below mentioned date.
The Borrower and the public in general are here by cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with property will be subject to the charge of M/s. LIC Housing Finance Limited for an amount notice mentioned below and interest thereon,
The Borrower attention is invited to provisions of section 13(8) of the said ACT, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets

Name of the Borrower, Loan No & Possession Taken Date	Demand Notice Date	Notice Amount	Description of the Property
Mr. H Y Satish Loan A/c No. 410300000712 410300001439 Symbolic Possession Date : 13/03/2025	12/12/2024	Rs. 3854607.00	Description of the property : Schedule 'A' Property : All that piece and parcel of the residential site no. 25, house list katha no. 358, new katha no. 635, situated at Mariyanapalya, Dasarahalli Dhakle, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk no Comes under Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Limits, BBMP Ward No. 6, measuring East to West:40 Feet, North to South: 60o Feet, in total 2400 sq.Ft, and bounded on the East By House Site No. 24 West By House Site No. 26 North By : House Site No, 19 South By : Road SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY : ALL That Piece And Parcel Of The Residential Site No. 26, House List Katha No. 358, New Katha No. 633, situated at Mariyanapalya, Dasarahalli Dhakle, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Barngalore East Taluk now comes under Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike LimitS, BBMP Ward No. 6, measuring East to West: 40 Feet. North to South: 60 Feet, in total 2400 sq.ft, and bounded on the East By House Site No. 25 West By Private Layout North By : House Site No. 18 South By Road Schedule 'C' Property (Amalgamated Schedule 'A' & 'B' Property) All That Piece And Parcel Of The Residential Site No, 25 & 26, Katha No.358/25 & 358|26, Old House List Katha No. 358, New Katha No. 635 & 633, situated at Mariyanapalya, Dasarahalli, Dhakle, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now comes under BBMP Limits, BBMP Ward No. 6, measuring East to West: 80 Feet, North to South: 60 Feet, in total 4800 sq.ft and bounded on the East By House Site No. 24 West By Private Layout North By House Site No. 18 & 19 South By : Road. Schedule 'D' Property : (Property Conveyed Under This Deed Of Sale) 1. 240 sq.ft. of undivided share, rights, title and interest in the Schedule C' Property. 2. Residential Flat No. S4, in Second Floor, in the building known as "Sai Balaji Blossom" having 1080 sq.ft of super built-up area, with 1 (one) covered Car Parking Space in Stilt Floor, constructed on the Schedule C Property with Vitrified Flooring, and Hone Wood used for doors and aluminum windows, together with proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircases, lift & other areas of common use.
Mr. Meena Ravi Loan A/c No. 412100001591 Symbolic Possession Date :13/03/2025	12/12/2024	Rs. 5023871.00	Description of the property : Schedule "A" : Item - I: All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing Northern portion of Site244. House List Katha No.227/3, situated at Kalkere Village, K.R.Puram Hobli earlier Bangalore South Taluk, Now Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West 65+77.06 /2 and North to South 57°+66'/2, totally measuring 4384 Sq.feet, presently under the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: East by: Site No.243; West by: Road; North by: Road; South by: Item II Property; Item - II : All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing Southern portion of Site No.244, House List Katha No.227/3, situated at Kalkere Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, Now Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West 77.06" and North to South 66 feet, totally measuring 4624 Sq.feet, presently under the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoeverhereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the; East by Site No.222 West by : Road; North by: Item I Property; South by: Road; Composite Schedule Property : All that piece and parcel of bearing Site No.244, HASB Katha No.227/3, situated at Kalkere Village, K.RPuram Hobli, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, Now Bangalore East Taluk, totally measuring 9008 Sq.feet, presently under the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever, hereunder underneath or above the surface and bounded on the K. Meeva East by Site Nos.222 & 243: West by Road; North by road;South by Road; SCHEDULE "B" : 443.91 Sq.ft undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule "A" above. Schedule "C" ; Flat bearing No.403, in the Fourth Floor, measuring about 1616 Sq.ft. super built up area, containing Three bed rooms, together with RCC Roofing, Vitrified flooring together with One covered car parking space, including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase, etc., in the multistoried residential building complex known as "Sabarmati Enclave" constructed over Schedule "A" Property.
Mr. Eshwarappa M Loan A/c No. 411900012163 Symbolic Possession Date :14/03/2025	21/11/2024	Rs. 3731246.00	Schedule Of The Property : All that piece and parcel of the Eastern Portion of the Vacant property bearing Old House List No.42 and 38, BMP No.19, Presently BBMP No.19/1, PID No.62-41-19/1, situated at Lakkasandra Village, Hombegowda Nagara, Bangalore, BBMP ward No.62, measuring East to West: 1899 feet and North to South:64 feet, totally measuring 1152 Square Feet, consisting with Ground consisting of 6 sq. First and Second Floor 11 sq. each of RCC building with Mosaic flooring, Jungle wood with all civic amenities, and bounded on: East by: Property No.18, West by: Remaining Western portion of Property No.19, North by: Road, South by:Property of Jayaramappa
Ms. Padma Prabha And Mr. Siva Kumar Padma Loan A/c No. 411500002790 Symbolic Date 14/03/2025	27/09/2024	Rs. 39,41,379.00	Schedule A Property : All that piece and parcel of the converted property bearing sy no 44/3, New sy no 44/3a, immovable property presently coming within the jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, bearing BBMP Khatha no 691/44/3A, measuring 1 acre 36 guntas, situated at Tubarahalli Village,Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on the: East by: Mr. Munichinnappa's land, West by: Road and Biddappa's land North by: Ramaiah's land South by: Nagaraj's land. Schedule B Property : (Description of the undivided share, right, title and interest hereby conveyed by the Vendors) 490 sq.ft Undivided share in the Schedule A Property. Schedule C Property : (Description of the apartment hereby sold) A Two Bedroom Apartment /Flat no 108, Block A, In The first Floor in the Apartment Building Know as "Charith Green Woods" constructed on the schedule A Property with super built up area of 1260 Sq.ft with exclusive use of the allotted area with right to use of one car parking space together with all common area attributable thereto. Flooring is vitrified tiles.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 17.03.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer
LIC Housing Finance Limited

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

On behalf of Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., Regional Electrical Engineer, Shirwad, Karwar, is inviting E-Tender for the following work:

Sr. No. 1: Sealed Bids are invited from experienced contractors for **Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 25KV, 50Hz, Single phase, Traction Over Head Equipment for proposed TTM siding connected with Road No.6 at Madgaon station of Konkan Railway of Karwar region. (Tender No.** KR-KW-EL-T-38-2024 **Date:** 17/03/2025). **Cost of work:** ₹ 28.86 lakh (excluding GST). **Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid:** 01/04/2025 up to 15:00 hrs.

Sr. No. 2: Sealed Bids are invited from experienced contractors for **Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 25KV, 50Hz, Single phase, Traction Over Head Equipment for TTM siding of 45 m length to loop line-I at Surathkal station of Konkan Railway of Karwar region. (Tender No.** KR-KW-EL-T-34-2024 **Date:** 17/03/2025). **Cost of work:** ₹ 16.89 lakh (excluding GST). **Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid:** 08/04/2025 up to 15:00 hrs.

Sr. No. 3: Sealed Bids are invited from experienced contractors for **Annual maintenance of AC units and water coolers in Karnataka section (Asnoti station to Thokur station both inclusive plus KRA / Manglore). (Tender No.** KR-KW-EL-AMC-T-36-2024 **Date:** 17/03/2025). **Cost of work:** ₹ 20.57 lakh (excluding GST). **Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid:** 08/04/2025 up to 15:00 hrs.

For further details please visit: **www.ireps.gov.in**

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) | **Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.**

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non-performing Asset,** whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) Mr. Vinod T D Also At: M/s. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., 2) Mrs. S Hemalatha	Loan Account No. 45349430000350 45349430000949 4534910000781 Loan Amount Rs.30,62,667/- Rs.2,87,312/- Rs.1,60,300/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Residential property bearing Constructed House Site No.284, (old No.276) Khatha No.310, Property No.20/2, situated at Marathahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West 22 Feet and North to South 32 Feet, Totally measuring 704 Sq.Feet, and Bounded on: **East By:** Private Property, **West By:** 13 feet CC Road, **North By:** Property No.283, **South By:** Property No.285.	Date of NPA: 03-03-2025 Demand Notice Date: 11-03-2025	Rs.35,11,516.24/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh Eleven Thousand Five Hundred Sixteen And Twenty Four Paisa Only) due as on 09-03-2025
2	1) Mr. Manjunath C P 2) Mrs. Manjula	Loan Account No. 46459630001809 Loan Amount Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the Immovable Residential Property bearing No.34/4, E-Khatha ID No.150300401600720332, situated at Nandagudi Village, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Presently comes under the limits of Nandagudi Grama Panchayath and bounded by the: **East by:** Same Number Property, **West by:** Same Number Property, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Same Number Property. Measuring East to West: 10.668 Meters and North to South: 9.4488 Meters, in all measuring 100.80 Sq. Meters.	Date of NPA: 03-03-2025 Demand Notice Date: 11-03-2025	Rs.4,45,208.81/- (Rupees Four Lakh Forty Five Thousand Two Hundred Eight And Eighty One Paisa Only) due as on 09-03-2025
3	1) Mrs. Rathnamma H K 2) Mr. Kempegowda	Loan Account No. 45350430000848 Loan Amount Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of Property No. 1529002031002003 21/327 310/37, measuring East to West 9.38784 Meters and North to South 14.020800000000001 Meters, situated at Yadamaranahalli Village, Achhallu Grama Panchayath, Kanakapura Block, Ramanagara District and bounded on: **East by:** House belongs to Raju Y K, **West by:** Remaining Place, **North by:** Remaining Place, **South by:** Raja Beedhi.	Date of NPA: 01-02-2025 Demand Notice Date: 11-03-2025	Rs.5,16,849.22/- (Rupees Five Lakh Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Nine And Twenty Two Paisa Only) due as on 09-03-2025

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

Date: 17-03-2025, Place: Bangalore **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

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Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar called on AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge at the latter's residence here on Sunday. They discussed the political situation of the state, including the party's plans for the upcoming polls to the BBMP and local bodies, according to sources. The duo flew together in a chopper to Gadag where they took part in the birth centenary celebrations of veteran Congress leader and leader of the cooperative movement in Karnataka late K H Patil, father of Law Minister H K Patil

KOPPAL HORROR AND K'TAKA'S RACE TO MAKE TOURISM SAFE

ILLUSTRATION MANDAR PARDIKAR

OFFICIALS' SPEAK

There is a need for technological interventions like integrated travel apps for surveillance and at tourism sites. We are in talks with the Central government for support and suggestions. The home department has issued an advisory for all property owners to follow, the district administrations are also issuing advisories. The feedback obtained from all stakeholders, including tourists is being reviewed in detail....We are working with the police and DCs to ensure they have proper NOCs before being listed on the tourism department website

Salma Fahim, Secretary, Tourism Dept

Karnataka has 759 tourism mitras, of which 200 have been appointed to ASI sites. In the latest state budget, Chief Minister Siddarmaiah announced that 1,200 more tourist mitras will soon be appointed. Karnataka has 25,000 monuments in the state, of which 8,000 are protected. But the state has listed 800 exclusive tourism destinations. There are many other locations like waterfalls, trekking routes, which have not been listed. Information of all these is being collated to ensure proper surveillance and security measures

KV Rajendra, Director, Tourism Dept

BOSKY KHANNA @BENGALURU

JUST as the state was grappling with the shocking incident of alleged gang-rape on two women, including an Israeli tourist, and the physical assault on three men, including one from Odisha, who was found dead in a Tungabhadra canal in Koppal, 45 km from Hampi, another incident of molestation of an Israeli woman tourist came to light.

These incidents have raised concerns about safety for domestic and international tourists. They have triggered a debate among stakeholders on multiple issues — over timings, like up to what time tourist destinations can remain open; whether night life should be encouraged; where and how much security should be provided; and making public a list of safe tourist destinations.

Yet, despite this, Karnataka continues to carry the image of being a hospitable, warm and welcoming destination for meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE), health, religious, environment and adventure tourism. But government officials and experts say a lot more needs to be done.

Soon after the Koppal horror, Karnataka state home department issued guidelines for homestay/hotel/resort owners to follow. It made it mandatory for them to obtain police and forest department permission before taking tourists to wooded or deserted locations. The government also reiterated the mandate issued by the Bureau of Immigration for all property owners to fill Form-C, informing the travel details of foreign tourists within 24 hours of their arrival.

Experts working closely with the tourism department say these are knee-jerk reactions. "There are sufficient rules that just need to be followed to the tee. There is a fine line between policing and ensuring safety to all. The police, district administration and property owners should work together. A log book of all hotels/homestays/resorts should be maintained, and it must be checked every fortnight. Details of property owners should also be checked by the police. The announcement of the government putting the onus on the property owners is not new, it has always been there," the expert said.

A senior tourism department official admitted to the lapses. After illegal activities in homestays and hotels, particularly in Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru came to light, the state government decided to prepare an inventory of all properties and crackdown on illegal ones. That exercise is yet to be completed.

But members of Coorg Homestay Association (CHA) have started to become vigilant. CHA president Monthi Ganesh says although Coorg has a large number of homestays in the district, only few follow the rules. "There is a clear definition of a homestay — a property that has not more than five-six rooms and the owner stays there. We surveyed and prepared a list of such homestays. We regularly check them and update the list. Visitors visiting Coorg should check the list," she says, adding that a similar exercise should be done everywhere.

Sundar Singaram, Director Operations, South India Hotels and Restaurants Association, says property and guides normally advise tourists on safety and timings. While most tourists follow, some don't. Like recently in Munnar, despite warnings, a German national ventured out on to a jungle road with a two-wheeler and was attacked by a tusker. Police and security measures are available only at select monuments. At remaining locations, it is wisdom and experience of local property owners that is crucial, he says.

Singaram adds the Koppal incident has not impacted tourism as yet. This is because of the image the southern states carry overall. International and domestic tourists find the hospitality offered by the southern states warmer and comfortable when compared to other places.

"Hampi is the face of Karnataka's tourism and a major draw for domestic and foreign tourists. The incident has taken place near the state's star location. It is a setback for the image of the tourism industry, especially after Karnataka hosted the Karnataka International Travel Expo- 2025 from February 25 to 28, showcasing the state's tourism potential to attract investment," says a senior state tourism department official.

Hampi has been declared as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). It is located on the banks of Tungabhadra River, showcasing the Vijayanagara dynasty.

Recently the government released the state tourism policy 2024-29, which included a chapter on tourist safety and comfort. According to experts, there is nothing concrete in the chapter assuring tourist safety, especially CCTV cameras.

BIG PICTURE

"As, globally, special measures and policies have been drawn to encourage solo travellers, especially women — which has now become a trend — Karnataka is yet to catch up. The policy lists works to be undertaken by tourist guides, role of "tourist mitras" (TMs-similar to tourism police force comprises of guides and home guards stationed at tourist sites), provision of facilities that are women- centric and for specially-abled, creation of an online grievance redressal system and launching of tourist helpline; but these are basic, a lot more needs to be done, and they need to take opinions of tourists to improve," says an official from the department.

The official admits that the incidents have raised the debate over promoting nightlife in Karnataka, not just limiting it to Bengaluru. "Each region/district is unique. The Daiva Kola and Bhoota Kola are held at night. The department is taking multiple steps to start "Hampi By Night" and promote nightlife on the beach. We cannot tell tourists not to venture out post sunset. Proper measures need to be in place for their safety," the official says.

However, as the members of hotels and restaurants associations support the idea of promoting nightlife, they question the support of the government agencies. Chandrashekhar Hebbar, Honorary President, Karnataka Hotels Association, citing the example of Bengaluru, says though hotels and restaurants have permission to stay open till late in the night, the police ask them to shut down, citing manpower shortage. The government is unable to provide proper infrastructure support for nightlife in Tier-1 cities, let alone other places.

He says while the government is checking all properties, the association has also started it. Karnataka has over a lakh hotels in varied categories, of which only 20% are registered.

District administrations have held meetings with stakeholders and a list of all locations where tourists stay and visit are being listed out. A registry of all homestays, lodges, resorts and hotels is being prepared and tallied with the ones listed with the tourism department. Warnings are also being issued to unregistered property owners, and work is being done to clamp them down.

GROUND REPORT

Like the state tourism's tagline 'One State Many Worlds', the concerns of each district are unique. While stern warnings have been issued to property owners to adhere to the Karnataka Tourism Trade (Facilitation and Regulation) (KTTF) Act, 2015, officials are being pressed with suggestions for improvements.

KODAGU

In the case of Kodagu, which is famous for adventure, leisure and coffee tourism, the district administration has prepared a list of works needed to be taken up on priority. The list includes installation of additional lighting facilities at tourist destinations. The department has listed 23 destinations in Madikeri.

Kodagu DC Venkat says they were acting swiftly to register all homestays on the department's website. "There are over 3,000 homestays across Kodagu and about 2,229 are registered with us. We are including the list of homestays registered on the Kodagu tourism department website," he says.

VIJAYANAGARA

Prabhulinga Talakere, Deputy Director, Tourism Department, Vijayanagara, says all registered homestays are being listed in the website and notices are being served to illegal ones. Property owners have been directed to display all obtained operational licenses prominently on display boards to instill confidence among tourists.

Ravi G, a homestay owner in Hampi, says the Koppal incident has impacted their business as foreigners have cancelled bookings. Vijayanagara district administration and stakeholders say there have been many instances in the past too where tourists have been ill-treated, including the one that happened last year wherein an autorickshaw driver tried to sexually harass a lady from Maharashtra. She filed a police complaint and the driver was arrested.

UDUPI-CHIKKAMAGALURU

As Udupi and Chikmagalur are famous for religious and trekking destinations, the government agencies are involving religious institutions and forest departments to ensure there are no untoward incidents.

Kumar CU, Assistant Director, Udupi Tourism Department, says five beaches (Malpe, Kaup Light House beach, Padubidri Blue Flag beach, Trasi and Maravanthe) in the district have been recognized by the department and have all safety measures in place. Work on protecting other lesser-known beaches is underway. He says homestay and resort operators have been directed to annually sign an undertaking to ensure they comply with the rules.

Shivaram Babu, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Karkala wildlife division, says no one is allowed inside forests for trekking without their guides. Entry of people in all forests is prohibited between 6pm and 6am.

Chikkamagaluru District superintendent of Police Dr Vikram Amthe, in his meeting with homestays, lodges and resort owners, asserted that police department permission is compulsory before taking tourists for star gazing at Mullayanagiri and Sitalayyanagiri. The SP also directed all property owners to ensure no night parties are allowed beyond 10pm.

KALYANA KARNATAKA REGION

In Kalyana Karnataka, the region famous for its forts, especially in Kalaburagi, during interaction with tourists and stakeholders, officials were asked to make note of the need to improve the provision of basic infrastructure including restrooms. Even as the district administration started to check all the lodges and hotels and their ledgers, they were greeted with complaints from tourists.

HASSAN

The region is not just famous for the archaeological sites — Belur, Halebid and Shravanabelagola — but now also for elephant tourism.

Hassan district administration officials too were forced to make note of the need to improve tourism facilities and safety measures in the heritage sites. During interaction it was learnt that authorities concerned had not maintained proper records of tourists, especially foreigners visiting the region, including the Western Ghats patches despite collecting entry fee. However, property owners have been keeping a records of domestic and international tourists. It may be recollected that last year tourists from Dakshina were attacked by miscreants near Patla Betta, a famous hill station.

A tourist guide in Belur says: "Belur is world famous for its temples, but lacks basic amenities and safety measures. Tourists or miscreants can enter from any nook and corner of the historic temples. There are no security guards to take care of tourists. Fortunately, no major incident has occurred so far."

BENGALURU-MYSURU

Just like Bengaluru, Mysuru is a unique city with immense and mixed tourism flavours for the government agencies to deal with. The two cities offer not just wildlife and adventure tourism in city outskirts, the urban cities are also famous for heritage, educational, health, cultural, MICE and urban tourism. After the Koppal incident, the police administrations of Mysuru and Bengaluru have not just been holding high-level stakeholder meetings to ensure tourist safety, they have also been holding meetings with each other to share notes.

There are several resorts and homestays in the fringes of Bandipur, Nagarahole and BRT tiger reserves and in Kabini backwaters which witness a huge footfall of domestic and international tourists. After the alleged gang-rape incident in Koppal, district authorities and police have visited the establishments to inspect all security measures, and their licenses and certificates are being verified.

SHIVAMOGGA

In case of Shivamogga, that is known for the scenic natural beauty and literature-rich destinations, TDharmappa, assistant director, tourism department, Shivamogga, says, a District Tourism Development Committee (DTDC) meeting will be held in April inviting all resort, hotel and homestay owners. They will also be educated on the need for their support and create awareness to avoid any untoward incidents.

DAKSHINA KANNADA

As Dakshina Kannada deputy commissioner Mullai Muhilan says, apart from taking stock of all properties, they are working on additional Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) by taking inputs from all stakeholders for the security of tourists visiting Mangaluru.

Yathish Baikampady, a beach tourism promoter, points out that local authorities must ensure there is lighting at all the beaches throughout the night. He says if there is proper lighting, a lot of families will visit the beaches and no untoward incident will happen. Streetlights at all tourist destinations should be properly maintained and there should also be proper police patrolling so that no anti-social elements thrive.

(With inputs from Prajna GR- Madikeri; Kiran Balannanavar- Koppal; Prakash Samaga- Udupi;Tushar A Majukar- Belagavi; Firoz Rozindar- Vijayapura & Bagalkote; Thipperudrappa Basappa- Chikkamagaluru; Ramakrishna Badsheshi-Kalaburgi; BR Udaya Kumar-Hassan; BK Lakshmikantha-Mysuru; Subhash Chandra NS- Uttara Kannada; Ramachandra V Gunari- Shivamogga; Divya Cutinho- Mangaluru)

3 HELD IN HAMPI TOURIST MOLESTATION CASE

Kiran Balannanavar @ Hampi, Hosapete

The Hampi police late on Saturday night arrested three youth in connection with the alleged molestation of an Israeli tourist and assault on an autorickshaw driver during the recent Hampi Utsav. The accused have been sent to the district jail in Hosapete town. The youth were earlier taken into custody for assaulting the auto driver and produced before the taluk magistrate who released them on bond. They did not file any case against the youths for allegedly molesting the Israeli woman, although she was also taken to the station along with the auto driver. After The New Indian Express reported the incident, with local police sources and eyewitness accounts confirming the incident, the police took the accused into custody again and sent them to jail. The local police refused to disclose under which sections the accused have been booked. Vijayanagara Superintendent of Police Shrihari Babu B L said they are investigating the case from all angles and checking if there was any molestation or assault. "The woman wrote a letter regarding the incident and submitted it to the police, who immediately filed a suo moto case under Sections 109/110. The trio was released by the executive magistrate on bond. Now to investigate the case, they were arrested again and sent to jail," he added.

4% quota: BJP to take up issue in ongoing session

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Opposition BJP will take up the recent cabinet decision to provide a 4% reservation in government tenders to Muslim contractors in the ongoing legislative session and later stage protests across the state.

On Friday, the cabinet, as part of the budgetary commitment, approved bringing a bill in the Karnataka legislature to provide the 4% reservation under the 2B category for Muslims in contracts for government works and procurement of materials up to Rs 2 crore by amending the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 1999.

In a post on X, BJP state president B Y Vijayendra called the government's move "sarkaari jihad" and said the government has proposed 4% now, which will become 100% tomorrow.

Vijayendra said the Karnataka BJP will lead protests both inside and outside the Assembly and ensure that justice prevails for each and every religion.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru on Sunday, Opposition leader in the Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy said there is no provision in the Constitution to provide reservation based on religion. "If reservation is given on such lines, it is against the Constitution," he said.

DyCM dares Vijayendra to give plum posts to minorities

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Gadag

DEPUTY Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has dared BJP state president B Y Vijayendra, who has spoken about equal rights for all, to make someone from the minority communities an MLC, Rajya Sabha member or a minister in the Central cabinet. Shivakumar was speaking about the contributions of the late K H Patil at Gadag Cotton Sale Society.

When asked about Vijayendra's tweet on equality, the DyCM said, "Let two Christians and three Muslims be allowed in his (Vijayendra) party. Only if this is done, Vijayendra will have the right to speak about equal rights".

"Muslims, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis and Buddhists are citizens of our country and Karnataka. We think about all the minorities and the backward classes," Shivakumar said.

To a question on his supporters insisting that he celebrate his completion of five years as KPCC president, Shivakumar said, "The ministers have been instructed to hold a meeting of workers at each assembly level and this should be done first. After that, it has been two years since the government came to power and this celebration has to be done."

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge with DyCM DK Shivakumar, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre and Law Minister HK Patil in Gadag on Sunday | EXPRESS

Edu not priority for Centre: Kharge

Gadag: AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge has accused the Central government of not giving priority to education due to which 50 per cent of the posts of teachers are lying vacant in Kendriya Vidyalayas and Central universities. "Everyone is talking about the importance of education and health. In the past, Jawaharlal Nehru, B R Ambedkar AND Mahatma Gandhi used to lay more emphasis on education. However, today it is unfortunate that these sectors are ignored," he said. In the meantime, he said that he is happy that Karnataka is doing well in terms of education. "In the past, education was emphasised during the British era. In North Karnataka, there are people who have kept pace with the times and given importance to education," Kharge said. He was in Gadag to inaugurate the new building of Cotton Sale Society as part of the birth centenary celebration of the late K H Patil. Kharge said, "Hyderabad-Karnataka has 37,000 vacancies. If there are no teachers to educate our children, then how will the children progress? In the country, there are 40,000 vacancies in Navodaya University, 7,400 in Kendriya Vidyalayas and 5,400 vacancies in universities. In addition, about 90,000 government schools have been closed across the country out of which 50,000 government schools are in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Due to this, poor children are being deprived of education. The number of private schools is increasing, due to which government schools are closing," he added. **ENS**

A devotee died while waiting in a queue at the Subramaniya Swamy temple in Tiruchendur, Tamil Nadu, following difficulty in breathing on Sunday. The devotee R Omkumar (50) was from Karaikudi. Sources said that the number of devotees had swelled at the darshan queues

STALIN DISMISSES CHARGES OF LIABILITIES

'Brought down debt growth, loans taken are investment for future'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

DISMISSING Opposition claims of the increasing debt burden of the State Government, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **MK Stalin** on Sunday said that the DMK government has brought down the growth in debt substantially in the last four years, and that the loans being availed are an investment for the future generation.

Answering a question about the budget in his 'Ungalil Oruvan' video series, Stalin said, "If the criticisms are constructive, we can consider them. But when they make negative criticism just for the sake of it, it only shows their malice towards the state government." Stalin pointed out that between 2011 and 2016, the growth of debt stood at 108%. This went up to 128% from 2016 to 2021. But after the DMK government assumed office, the debt growth was brought down to 93%.

To a question about his tweet on using Tamil word Ru in the place of the rupee symbol that hit the headlines across the country, Stalin said, "We placed Tamil letter Roo to demonstrate our commitment to the language policy. That's all. But those who dislike Tamil have made that a big news. The Union Finance Minister, who was silent on my demands in the past, has responded to that. She has used 'Ru' in many of her posts (on social media). In all, Tamil Nadu budget and Tamil language have become a hit at the national level," he said.

On how Tamil Nadu is different from other states in debt issue, the CM said, "The recent economic survey showed that the debt (to GSDP ratio) of Tamil Nadu is within the limits. There is no government which does not borrow. Whether we spend these loans properly is what is important. In that respect, the DMK government has been spending the loans availed as an investment for the future generation. That is why, the experts and newspapers have ignored the meaningless criticism of the opposition parties," he added. Answering a query on how the budget preparation was done, the CM recalled his consultations with the Economic Advisory Council comprising world-renowned experts and numerous meetings with ministers and officials at the state secretariat for hours on many days. Giving a detailed account on how the newspapers and financial experts hailed the various aspects of the budget, Stalin showed a copy of the *The New Indian Express'* headline — 'Budget that counts all' — and the illustration that went with the headline on front page and hailed the coverage. He also referred to the budget coverage of other newspapers. On his next plan, the CM said, "My immediate task is to gear up the ministers and officials to implement whatever is announced on time."

"Also, we must continue our fight against the union government's financial discrimination towards Tamil Nadu and the reduction in the number of Lok Sabha constituencies due to delimitation. We have to make Tamil Nadu a trillion-dollar economy by 2030 and secure the numero uno position in all aspects. There is plenty of work ahead and no time to rest," the CM said.

FIRE AT THOOTHUKUDI PLANT

A major fire broke out at the Thoothukudi Thermal Power Station late on Saturday night, leading to the halting of 630 MW of power production at three of its units. Following several hours of effort, fire and rescue service personnel managed to put out the blaze by 5 pm on Sunday. The fire at the cable gallery, however, is still smoldering. Two firefighters have been hospitalised due to suffocation | V KARTHIKALAGU

EXPRESS READ

At 43.6°C Odisha's Boudh is hottest in country

Bhubaneswar: Boudh in Odisha recorded the highest temperature in the country for the second consecutive day on Sunday with mercury level touching 43.6 degrees Celsius even as heatwave continued to sweep Odisha. However, there may be some respite from Wednesday as the IMD has predicted nor'wester activity for three days. Jharsuguda was the second hottest in the country at 42 degrees C. **ENS**

AR Rahman discharged after brief hospitalisation

Chennai: Music composer **AR Rahman**, who was admitted briefly to Apollo Hospitals in Chennai, with symptoms of dehydration on Sunday was discharged following a check-up. In a medical bulletin, the hospital said, "AR Rahman visited Apollo Hospitals, Greams Road, this morning with dehydration symptoms and got discharged after a routine check-up." **ENS**

'School had no nod to operate hostel'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"THE school was set up in 1989. It was running a hostel illegally. The school had permission to run classes LKG to Class 8, but had till SSLC," the Superintendent of Police said, adding that there were 252 students in the school, of which 24 from Meghalaya and six from Mandya district resided in the hotel run on the first floor of the school building.

"On Sunday morning, one student from Meghalaya died. Of the 28 hospitalised, seven are in a serious condition, while one is on a ventilator in ICU. An FIR has been registered under Section 106 (death by negligence) and Section 286 (negligent conduct with respect to poisonous substance) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita against the school owner and staff," the SP said.

Mandya District Health Officer Dr Mohan said that the exact cause of death will be known only after the autopsy report is available. He said that even the guests of the business who consumed the food complained of vomiting and diarrhea and received treatment in various hospitals.

Meanwhile, Mandya Deputy Commissioner Kumar, who visited the school and hospital, told the media that the school management had not taken permission for the residential school, which was being run illegally. He promised legal action against those responsible for the incident.

The police said that they have arrested the school owner and hostel warden for providing leftover food without checking the quality.

Also, the hotel chef who prepared the food has been taken into custody.

Deeply saddened, says Siddaramaiah

Posting on 'X', Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that he was saddened to learn of the incident.

"I have spoken to Mandya Deputy Commissioner and instructed him to arrange appropriate treatment for the children and take strict action against those responsible for the incident. The police have arrested three," he said, adding that precious lives should not be lost due to carelessness.

Meanwhile, Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy, an MP from Mandya where the school is located, has directed the officials to take immediate action against the guilty.

Govt aims to root out drug menace: Siddu

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MANGALURU City Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal said that the Mangaluru CCB cops relentless efforts over the last six months to bust the drug source after the seizure of 15 g of MDMA from a peddler by the name of Hyder Ali from a lodge in Pumpwell near Mangaluru ultimately led to the biggest ever seizure. Mangaluru East Police handed over this case to CCB in order to trace the key peddler who was supplying drugs to Hyder Ali and others.

This led the police to a Peter Ikedi Belonwu, a Nigerian national, from whom over 6 kg of MDMA was seized. The police continued the efforts to bust the network, which finally led them to the arrest of the two South African nationals from Bengaluru.

The commissioner said the investigation is on to know how the accused managed to slip the drugs from the high-security airports for such a long time and whether the security there was hand in glove.

The assistance of the Narcotics Control Bureau will be sought in the further investigation, the commissioner further said.

CM praises Mangaluru cops

In a post on 'X', Chief Minister Siddaramaih lauded the Mangaluru City Police over the biggest ever drug haul in Karnataka. He said that the police have prevented a major threat to the life of thousands of youth. Siddaramaiah said that from the first day of the Congress coming to power in the state, the government has waged a war against consumption and peddling of drugs in order to create an addiction-free society.

A few months ago, when he visited Mangaluru, the Chief Minister said he had promised to check the drug menace in the district to create a healthy environment. "The efforts on that direction led to the busting of largest drug network. Our government has set a target to root out the drug menace which has spread across the state," he added.

Vijay seeks fair probe into Tasmac 'scam'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

DEMANDING a fair investigation into the Tasmac 'scam' and appropriate action against those involved in it, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president and actor **Vijay** on Sunday said that the people of Tamil Nadu would reject the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in the 2026 Assembly elections as the 'propaganada model' government's gimmicks would not succeed in the people's court.

The Rs 1,000-crore scam is just the tip of the iceberg. A deeper investigation into the issue might lead to catching not only the small fish but also sharks

TVK president and actor Vijay

In a statement here, Vijay said that those involved in the Tasmac (Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation Limited) 'scam' should be subjected to inquiry and the truth should be brought to light. "But whether or not there will be a fair investigation is known only to those invisible bosses and their relatives," he added.

The actor-turned-politician said that only highly experienced and skilful masterminds could have committed such a 'massive financial fraud'.

"The Rs 1,000-crore scam is just the tip of the iceberg. A deeper investigation into the issue might lead to catching not only the small fish but also sharks," he said on the financial irregularities alleged by the Enforcement Directorate in Tasmac.

HINDUJA LEYLAND FINANCE

Corporate Office: 27 A, Developed Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai – 600032. CIN: U65993MH2008PLC384221.

POSSESSION NOTICE

UNDER RULE 8(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES,2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Hinduja Leyland Finance Ltd (HLF)** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a **Demand Notice dated 08.10.2024** calling upon the **Borrowers 1.) M/S. NHS Industries. Prop: Mr. Bhargav Reddy. N.S, 2.) Mrs. Theja S Reddy, 3) Mrs. Manasa Shivaram Reddy, & 4) Mr. Bhargav Reddy. N.S.** who have availed loan against mortgage of property vide Loan Account No. KABNBNCO00061 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being amount **Rs. 10,78,96,490/- (Rupees Ten Crore Seventy-eight Lakh Ninety-Six Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Only) as on 07.10.2024** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this **12th March, 2025.**

The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrowers and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Hinduja Leyland Finance Limited** for an amount as mentioned above with interest, legal and incidental expenditure thereof till the date of payment.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY: Property 1:- New Corporation No.3, 1st Cross, Suddaguntepalya, Bangalore -560029, present Municipal no.3, PID No.63-95-3, 1st cross, S.G.Palya, Lakkasandra, Bangalore, presently within the limits of BBMP and **bounded on: Item No - A:** Corporation No.3, 1]measuring 58x11ft=638sgft (on the Northern side with AC Sheet house), 2]measuring 61x20ft=1220sqft, measuring 27x21.6ft=580sgft, measuring 40x(1 5+17)/2ft=660sgft, 3]measuring 44x(37.6+0) /2ft=836sqft in all measuring 3934sqft.

Item-B: PID No.63-95-03, measuring (41+39)/2x(49+34)/2ft=160Osqft

Item-C: PID No.63-95-03, Measuring 45x55ft in all 2475sqft in all measuring 8009sgft., East by :20ft Road, West by: property of S.V.Shivaram Reddy, North by: property of Mahadev, South by: private Property. Measuring approximate 8009sqft.(2389.50 of GF+2389.50 of FF+2389.50 of SF)

Property 2:- No.1, Municipal No.1, PID No.63-95-1, New ward No.152, Old No.63, Situated at 1st Cross, S.G.Palya, Suddagunte Palya Bangalore, presently within the limits of BBMP and **bounded on:** East by: Previously 3½ Common Passage, Presently Private Property, West by: Property belongs to Mr.S.V.Shivaram's, North by: Property belongs to Mhadeva, (Sold by the Donor), South by: S.M.Venkataswamy's house and S.V.Shivaram's property, **Measuring** East to West 35ft and North to South 10ft in total measuring 350saft.

Property 3:- No.104 (Old No.4), PID No.63-95-4/1, 1st Cross S.G.Palya, (Suddagunte Palya) presently Municipal no.4/1, 1st Cross S.G.Palya, PID No.63-95-4/1, ward No.63 (old No.35), Situated at Lakkasandra, Bangalore presently within the limits of BBMP, East by:S.V.Shivaram's House, West by:S.R.Sudhakar Reddy's House & private property, North by: K.Vishwanath's House, South by: Road & then K.Appi's House. Measuring East to West (25+15)/2ft and North to South 114ft in total measuring approximately 2263sqft.

Dated: 12-03-2025 **FOR M/S HINDUJA LEYLAND FINANCE LTD.**
Place: Bangalore **Authorised Officer**

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commissionerate of Agriculture,
Seshadri Road, Bengaluru – 560001

No.: DDA(F&M)/MNR/e-RFP/2025-26 Date: 15.03.2025

SHORT TERM e-REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RfP) NOTIFICATION

Technical and Financial Proposals are invited through GoK e-procurement portal from the registered Manufacturers/ Authorized distributors for Carrier based Bio-fertilizers, Liquid based Bio-fertilizers, VAM-Biofertilizer, Green manure seeds (Diancha, Sunhemp, Pillipesara(Phaseolus trilobus) Horsegram & Cowpea), Zinc sulphate (21% & 33%), Borax (10.5% & 14.5%), Ferrous sulphate (19%), Magnesium sulphate (9.5%), Micronutrient Mixtures, Gypsum, Agricultural Lime, Dolomite, Vermicompost, Organic Manure, Phosphate Rich Organic Manure, Non-edible de-oiled Neem Cake and City Compost(Bulk & Packed Supply) required for various Departmental programmes for the year 2025-26. These Agricultural inputs are required for supply to the farmers under different schemes of the Department.

Short Term REQUEST for PROPOSAL (RfP) document is available in the e-Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Suppliers must be accompanied by a Common Earnest Money Deposit (CEMD) for an amount of Rs.50,000/- which should be paid online through e-Procurement portal using any of the following payment modes: Credit Card-Visa or Master card, Debit card-Visa or Master card, Internet banking, and offline payments through Remittance at the Bank counter using challan, National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT/RTGS). The Applicant has to further submit a Performance Bank Guarantee as per the Technical Proposals submitted along with the Copy of the documents uploaded, one day before or on the day of opening of technical proposal to "Deputy Director of Agriculture (Fertilizer and Manure), Commissionerate of Agriculture, Sheshadri Road, Bangalore".

Suppliers should upload the documents through e-Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or before 02.04.2025 within 05:00 P.M. The hard copies of the documents which are not uploaded online through e-procurement portal will not be accepted. The Proposal Scrutinizing Committee will open the Technical Proposal on 04.04.2025 at 11.00 AM at Samruddhi Conference Hall, Department of Agriculture, Sheshadri Road, Bangalore – 560 001. The date of Financial Proposal opening will be communicated later. Estimated value of the RfP is approximately Rs.36.15 Crore.

DIPR/CP/LC/5729/2024-25 **Sd/-, Director of Agriculture**

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

1st Floor, Jeevan Managal Building, Hayes Road, Bengaluru -560025. Ph.: 080-43003651

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Office of the M/S, LIC Housing Finance Limited the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of security Interest(enforcement) Rule 2002 issued demand notice on below mentioned date calling upon the borrower/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act with rule 9 of the said rules on below mentioned date.

The Borrower and the public in general are here by cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with property will be subject to the charge of M/s. LIC Housing Finance Limited for an amount notice mentioned below and interest thereon,

The Borrower attention is invited to provisions of section 13(8) of the said ACT, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets

Name of the Borrower, Loan No & Possession Taken Date	Demand Notice Date	Notice Amount	Description of the Property
Mr. Adike Dhanunjaya Loan A/c No. 410100010023 Physical Possession Date ;15/03/2025	21/06/2024	Rs. 12193530.00	Schedule Property : All that piece and parcel of the Site property bearing Site No. 52, measuring East to West: (30+33)/2 feet and North to South: 30 feet, carved out of the lands to an extent of 3.01 acres in S.No.87, situated at Doddakallasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore (Conversion Certificate and the Official Memorandum issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore dated 01.01.1992, in No.B.DIS.ALN.SR (S) 210 and B.DIS.ALN.SR (S) 211/1991-92) bounded on: East by: Site No.51, West by: Private Property, North by: Road, South by:Site No.45.
Mr. Ramashetty Loan A/c No. 411900011495 Physical Possession Date : 15/03/2025	25/08/2022	Rs. 2350171.00	Schedule 'A' Property : All that part and parcel, of converted land the bearing Sy no. 45/2B,measuring 2Acre 06 Guntas, vide Deputy Commissioner conversion order No. ALN(NAY)SR:84/2014-2015,dated:02/11/2015 situated at Veerasagara village,Yelahanka Hobli,Banglore North Taluk,and bounded as follows: East by: Remaining property Bearing Sy No 45/2B West by: Land bearing Sy no 40 and Road North by: Land bearing Sy no 45 South by: Land bearing Sy no 46 SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY : (Property hereby conveyed) : All that part and parcel, of converted land vide conversion order NO. ALN(NAY) SR:84/2014-15,DATED:02.11.2015 PROPERTY BEARING Residential Vacant Site NO:45,Katha No: 308/45/2B carved in sy no 45/2B measuring East to West 40ft North to South 35ft totally measuring 1400sq ft in the layout "Whispering Meadows" the site formed in Schedule "A" property bounded as follows: East By: Site No. 36 West By : Road North By : Private Property South By : Site No. 44
Mr. Karthik C Loan A/c No. 411800005017 Physical Possession Date : 15/03/2025	30/10/2023	Rs. 7692726.00	Schedule Property : All that piece and parcel of Eastern portion of property bearing Site No. 4, 15th J Cross, Assessement No. 88, Khata No. 88, Laggere Village, BBMP New Ward No. 75 (Old No. 13) Yeshawantapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 35 feet totally measuring 750 Sq.feet and bounded on the: East by: Road, West by:Western Portion of Property No. 4, North by: Property belongs to Sri HarikrishnaSouth by: Property belongs to Hanumaiah.
Ms. Mangala H Loan A/c No. 411600004911 Physical Possession Date : 15/03/2025	22/07/2022	Rs. 13,90,002.00	Schedule Property : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.109, formed out of Converted land Survey No.73/3, situated at Sondekoppa Village, coming under the Sondekoppa Gram Panchayath, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District, in the layout known as "Sri Annaporneshwari" with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface, and bounded on : Measuring: East to West : 40'-0" Feet and North to South : 30'-0" Feet Totally in all measuring 1200 Square Feet and bounded on: East by :Plot No.104, West by : Road, North by : Plot No.108, South by : Plot No.110.
Mr. Thomas Varghese Loan A/c No. 411900009897 Physical Possession Date : 15/03/2025	13/06/2022	Rs. 1385565.71	Schedule 'A' Property : Item No.1 : All that part and parcel, of the land bearing Sy. NO. 162/1, measuring to an extent of 3 Acres and 27 guntas,along with 2 guntas of Kharab out of 5 Acres and 27 guntas which is converted for residential use videO.M bearing No. ALN(A)(S)SR :98/2014-15 issued by the Deputy Commissioner Bangalore, situated at Mugalur Village Sarjapura Hobli, AnekalTaluk, Bangalore Urban District, and bounded on East by: Land of Chowdadenahalli Papaiah West by: Land of KuthganahalliMuniswamy's North by: Mud Road, South by: Ramaining portion of the said land belongs to Sri. Muniraju, Thayappa & Others Land. Item No.II : All that part and parcel, of the land bearing Sy. NO. 162/2, measuring to an extent of 1 Acre which is converted for residential use videO.M bearing No. ALN(A)(S)SR :98/2014-15 issued by the Deputy Commissioner Bangalore, situated at Mugalur Village Sarjapura Hobli, AnekalTaluk, Bangalore Urban District, and bounded on: East by : Land of B.R. Chandrasekhar &Venkataramanappa West by : Land of Kempamma North by : Land of Thayappa in the same survey numberSouth by : Land of Narasimhaiah. Item No.III : All that part and parcel, of the land bearing Sy. NO. 162/3, measuring to an extent of 25 guntas out of 1 Acre which is converted for residential use videO.M bearing No. ALN(A)(S)SR :98/2014-15 issued by the Deputy Commissioner Bangalore, situated at Mugalur Village Sarjapura Hobli, AnekalTaluk, Bangalore Urban District, and bounded on East by : Land of B.R. Chandrasekhar & Venkataramanappa West by : Land of Kempamma North by : Land of Sy No. 162/2 South by : Land of Thimmasendra Gadi. Item No.IV :All that part and parcel, of the land bearing Sy. NO. 19/3, measuring to an extent of 20 guntas which is converted for residential use videO.M bearing No. ALN(A)(S)SR :20/2013-14 issued by the Deputy Commissioner Bangalore, situated at Koothaganahalli Village Sarjapura Hobli, AnekalTaluk, Bangalore Urban District, and bounded on : East by : Mugulur Village boundary West by : Remaining land in Sy No. 19/3,& allotted to the share of Ashwathappa North by : Land of Sy No. 18 South by : Land of Venkatagiriyamma and boundary of Doddathimmasandra. Schedule 'B' Property : All that piece and parcel of the Residential Vacant Plot(Site) bearing NO.80, Junjer No. 2388/80,E-Katha PID No. 150200102201121882,carved out of Sy. No. 162/1, 162/2, 162/3 & 19/3 which is converted for residential use vide O.M bearing No. ALN(A)(S)SR:98/2014-15 DATED 12-01-2015 & VIDE O.M No.ALN(A)(S)SR:20/2013-14 dated 07/08/2013 issued by The Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore, and approved residential layout known as "NANDANA SHELTERS", situated at Mugaluru Village, Sarjapur Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District. Measuring East to west : 12.19 Mtrs (40 Feet) North to South : 9.14 Mtrs (30 Feet) Totally measuring 111.42 sqmtrs.,(1200 Sqft) and bounded on the: East by : Panchayath Road West by : Private property North by : Site No.81 South by : Site No. 79
Mr. Chandragiri Muthyala Murthy Dilip Kumar. Loan A/c No. 412000003172 Physical Possession Date : 15/03/2025	21/11/2023	Rs. 1928671.00	Schedule Property : All that piece and parcel of Western Portion of property bearing Municipal No.1/3, presently comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.44, PID No.44-6-1/3 situated at 10th Main Road, Padarayanapura, Bangalore and bounded as follows: East by: 3 X 6 feet passage and remaining eastern portion of same property belonging to Sri.C M Rajesh, West by: Kempachennaiah property presently belongs to Venkataramanappa North by: Conservancy South by: Road.
Mr. Dalapath Singh Loan A/c No. 411600004740 Physical Possession Date : 15/03/2025	04/12/2023	Rs. 3075201.00	Schedule Property : All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Vacant Site No.3, Khata No.53/1,53/3 & 53/4, formed out of Converted Sy.Nos. 53/1,53/3 & 53/4, (converted for agricultural to non-agricultural residential purpose vide conversion order No.ALN/NAY) SR: 169/2014-15, dated 16/11/2015, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore), situated at Mediagrahara Village, Yelehanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: 56.75+55/2 feet, North to South: 30 feet, total measuring 1676.25 Sq.ft., together with all rights appurtenances whatsoever underneath or above the surface and bounded as follows: East by:Road, West by: Site No.15, North by: Site No.2, South by: Site No.4.
Mr. Hariprasad V Loan A/c No. 411600001601 Physical Possession Date : 15/03/2025	24/01/2024	Rs. 16977439.00	Schedule Property : All that piece and parcel of Vacant Site bearing No.1279, measuring East to West: 12.19 Meters and North to South: (18.9+18.74)/2 feet, total measuring 229.41 Square meters/2470 Square feet, situated at Vyalikaval House Building Co-operative Society Limited, Bangalore, the private layout approved by the Bangalore Development Authority Bangalore vide resolution No.156/03, dated 12/09/2003 and formed by the Vyalikaval House Building Co-operative Society Limited Layout, Bangalore, in the lands bearing Sy.No.24/5, 24/6, 24/7A, 24/7B, 24/8, 25, 26/2, 26/3B, 33/1, 34/1, 34/2, 35/1, 35/3, TO 9, 37/2, 37/3, 37/6, 38/1, 48/1B, 49/3, 50/4, 51/2, 52/1, 76/3A, 76/3B, 77/3 to 7, 78/2, 78/6, 79, 81/1, 85/8, 86, 87/1, 87/2A, 87/2B, 87/2C, 87/2D, 87/3, 87/4 and 88/5 of Nagavara Village, Kasba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, now comes under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar PAlike, Bangalore, ward No.23, and bounded on the:- East by: Site No.1278 West by: Site No.1280, North by: Road, South by: Path Way.

Place: Bangalore **Sd/- Authorized Officer**
Date: 17.03.2025 **LIC Housing Finance Limited**

EDITORIAL

No two languages are ever sufficiently similar to be considered as representing the same social reality

Edward Sapir

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

GOLD BONDS POSE BIG FISCAL PROBLEM FOR UNION GOVT

THE Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) scheme, launched in 2015 to discourage investors from purchasing more of the yellow metal, has ironically turned into a white elephant for the government by creating a significant fiscal burden. The government has so far issued ₹72,000 crore worth of SGBs between November 2015 and February 2024. While the first few tranches issued in 2015 and 2016 have been redeemed, SGBs worth 132,000 kg of gold are still being held by investors. At current market price, the government is looking at a liability of ₹1.12 lakh crore. With a tenure of eight years, the last of the SGBs will complete their tenure in 2032. If the metal follows the past decade's trend—when prices soared more than threefold—the government will face a much more massive liability than the currently valued one.

While the idea of weaning away the common man from buying the metal itself by offering an alternative avenue for investment was a good idea, the policymakers made two big mistakes—the bigger one being not buying gold as a backup to manage risks against the bonds issued. Instead, the proceeds of the scheme were used as borrowings from the public to fund the fiscal deficit. The second mistake was the promise of 2.5 percent interest on the SGBs on top of the capital gains accruing from the metal's price appreciation. Now, with gold prices having surged a few times since the launch of the scheme, the cost of the borrowing for the government has gone up to double-digits compared to the 6-7 percent average cost for government bonds.

The government has, of course, realised the mistake and stopped issuing SGBs after February 2024, but the damage has already been done. In the current financial year, it has a total liability of over ₹60,000 crore due to SGBs. The next financial year, it is expected to be ₹55,000 crore. With uncertainty growing over global economic growth, gold prices are continuing to hit new highs. Unless they moderate over the next 5-8 years, the SGBs risk becoming a major fiscal headache for the government.

AS WPL PICKS UP, INDIAN PLAYERS NEED ATTENTION

IN 2020, after the Women's T20 World Cup final brought 86,174 spectators to the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground, former Australia captain Lisa Sthalekar was asked when India should start a women's premier league. "Probably yesterday," Sthalekar had bluntly replied. Five years later, the dynamics of women's cricket in India have changed. And the Women's Premier League (WPL) continues to play an important role.

The third season of the franchise league was testament to its rising popularity. It is widely acknowledged that WPL's existence has led to general awareness regarding the women's game. For the first time, the competition was spread over four cities and crowds came in large numbers to support the teams. It would have been unthinkable a decade ago. With India hosting the ODI World Cup later this year, the event is expected to break attendance records for the women's game.

The competition has benefited Indian talent in two ways. The money these players have earned at auctions over the past three years has shown young women cricketers how lucrative the profession can be. This in turn has led to a mushrooming of training centres exclusively for women across the country. The WPL is also a platform where up-and-coming Indian players get to meet international stars and grow their own games. Twenty-year-old Kashvee Gautam was one such example this season. Playing for Gujarat Giants after missing the previous season to injury, Gautam not only bowled the most overs for her team, but also took the most wickets. She even looked composed with the bat.

However, it's not all sunshine and rainbows. The competition is still largely dominated by overseas players, especially all-rounders. The top three run-scorers at this edition are players from England, Australia and West Indies. Not a single Indian bowler is among the top five wicket-takers in WPL 3. The Indian players are getting to learn from the best, but they are hardly getting any opportunity to execute it through the current format of the game, as domestic players are relegated to the bench more often than not. Perhaps the solution would be to add more teams to the competition to give exposure to more domestic players. If the Indian cricket board manages to address these issues, WPL could turn India into an unstoppable force in women's cricket.

QUICK TAKE

FROM ANDES TO HIMALAYAS

A Peruvian farmer suing a German energy company has become a landmark case pushing the boundaries of global climate jurisprudence. Saul Luciano Lliuya, a farmer in a part of Andean highlands that has become increasingly vulnerable to flash floods, wants RWE to pay for his town's flood defences, tied to the company's share of global manmade greenhouse gas emissions. The case opens in Germany's Hamm today. It's a manoeuvre to set a legal precedent so that European companies cannot wash their hands of their climate footprint around the world. It's a case India should closely follow, because though Peru has more than two-thirds of the world's tropical glaciers, the Indian Himalayas too have their fair share.

Instead of implementing successful policies from developed southern states like Tamil Nadu in the northern ones, the Centre wants to homogenise. This could be economically catastrophic

WHY THE REST SHOULD LEARN FROM THE BEST

PALANIVEL THIAGA RAJAN

Minister of Information Technology and Digital Services, Tamil Nadu

SOURAV ROY

IN 1990, India, with a per capita income of $368, and China, with $318, stood on the same ground. Though China had started liberalising in the late 1970s, its growth had not reached peak acceleration yet. But the ensuing 30+ years were clearly China's era, as its increasing dominance in global manufacturing, trade and currency reserves resulted in probably the greatest wealth creation in history. China's per capita income has surged to $12,614—about five times India's current level of around $2,480.

We are now entering a new era, one in which enlightened policy and nimble positioning can produce a few decades of similarly stunning growth and prosperity for India. As China's role in the global economy declines due to an ageing population, and as global investors and trading partners actively de-risk their China exposure, India can become the new engine of growth for the global economy.

We possess the essential ingredients—the largest pool of young human capital, the capacity for global economic integration (not least through English), and the demographic dividend that can lead to the multiplier effects of increasing domestic consumption. To enhance our per capita productivity, which can yield sustained double-digit growth rates, we must equip millions of young Indians with skills for the integrated global market. The best way to achieve such outcomes throughout India is to extract lessons from the best performing states such as Tamil Nadu, and replicate these policies and practices in states with poorer outcomes, thereby improving the national average.

Instead of applying from the best to the rest, it is unfathomable that our Union government has become fixated on pushing a homogenising agenda on the developed south, thereby risking a decline in the national average, as failed models are thrust upon successful states. Instead, it should be focused almost exclusively on the vital priority of securing the future of our younger generations in the highly populated, high-fertility states of the north, which are the farthest behind the national average. Their wholly misdirected focus appears centred on an ephemeral political ideology that seeks to subjugate diverse identities into a 'One nation, One profile for 1.4 billion people' fallacy, instead of actually improving people's lives and livelihoods. Such prioritisation, of political ambition over core governance responsibilities, creates the risk of an economic catastrophe.

I repeat—the Union government's foremost priority should be elevating health and educational outcomes, particularly in highly populated states where these metrics lag woefully behind Tamil Nadu's. What makes the neglect of this priority more troubling is that these underperforming states—Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan—are governed by the much-flaunted 'double-engine sarkars'. If India's future is to be stellar, children across all states must thrive educationally. So, we in Tamil Nadu yearn for better outcomes in these regions, where tangible results remain elusive despite the ever-increasing infusion of resources for decades.

The disparity between these states and Tamil Nadu is not merely economic—it is social too. Rather than dictating terms to Tamil Nadu, the Centre would be better served learning how to bridge these gaps through improved healthcare access, promoting greater inclusivity (education for girls, in particular), reducing dropout rates, enhancing skill development, and encouraging higher education.

Instead, they have chosen a path of coercion—threatening Tamil Nadu and holding it hostage by withholding rightful funds—perhaps to distract from their own governance failures? This approach is self-defeating. Anyone who comprehends the broader socio-economic canvas will understand why Tamil Nadu stands at the forefront of resistance—opposing disproportionate delimitation, rejecting the three-language formula, and challenging the systematic erosion of states' rights in our federal structure.

Of particular concern is the proposed delimitation exercise, which strikes at the heart of fair representation. The principle of 'no taxation without representation' seems conveniently forgotten. Despite contributing disproportionately higher taxes to the national exchequer, our state faces the prospect of having its proportional share of parliamentary representation reduced. Having successfully implemented population control measures decades ago as a responsible national policy, we now face being penalised. This would squeeze our voice in national affairs, effectively punishing good governance and demographic responsibility. We are being asked to pay more while having less say—a proposition that no self-respecting democracy should consider.

The Centre's obduracy suggests they are unwilling to learn from successful models. The benefits accrued by Tamil Nadu's adoption of the two-language formula are unmistakably evident. As is the storied history of our state's fierce opposition to having any educational policy (or Hindi) blatantly or surreptitiously imposed upon us. This legacy is in the identity of the Dravidian movement from the days of the Justice Party. Our history is replete with iterations of resistance: from the 1930s and 60s to the late 80s. The Tamils are not people who will buckle under strongarm tactics.

Chief Minister M K Stalin remains resolutely committed to defending our state's rights, our language and, above all, the future of our younger generations. He has approached this campaign through democratic means—convening an all-party meeting to garner support from every quarter and to channel the prevailing sentiment. He has called for a multi-state conference to form a joint action committee to address these issues with a broad coalition. If the Union government believes that Tamil Nadu will stand politically isolated, they have fundamentally misread the mood of the nation.

It is heartening that the BJP has demonstrated astonishing elasticity when political expediency has required it. For instance, though the prime minister embarked on a welfare-bashing spree denouncing a "revdi culture" in 2023, his party has since been doing exactly what he condemned, in state election after election. In a remarkable yet unsurprising u-turn, they have cloned Tamil Nadu's model of the Magalir Urimai Thogai repeatedly, promising even higher monthly payouts than Tamil Nadu in Maharashtra and Delhi. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

We remain hopeful that the habit of absorbing lessons from Tamil Nadu will continue, and result in the profound societal and policy reforms that must be implemented to improve educational and health outcomes in the large, 'double-engine' northern states. More than any other measure, our country's future depends on how the youth of these states prosper.

(Views are personal)

REFLECTIONS ON LENT AND THE GANGA OF CHRISTIANITY

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

THIS year, the 40-day-long Christian fast called Lent began on March 5 and will end on April 17. It seems the word 'Lent' comes from Latin, meaning fortieth, since the fast is observed for 40 days.

The fast is in spiritual preparation for the foundational event of the Christian faith, which is Easter, occurring this year on April 20.

Easter is the anniversary of the day that Christians believe Jesus returned from the dead. Known as the Resurrection, it is the most important Christian event after Christmas.

Lent commemorates the 40 days that Jesus is believed to have spent fasting in the desert before beginning his public ministry. Fasting is an old practice across religions and cultures and some say that the new Christian faith adopted it as it grew and evolved from being an underground cult for the West Asian underclass in its beginning to a formal public religion celebrated by kings.

It is said that Jesus undertook this fast after being baptised in the river Jordan by John, his cousin. John was a Jew, like Jesus, and an active preacher in the area of the river Jordan in the early first century Common Era. He is also known as Yahya bin Zakariya, or John, son of Zachariah. According to the Gospels, John anticipated the coming of someone much greater than himself, the promised Messiah of the Old Testament.

It is said that John belonged to a semi-ascetic sect of the Jews called the Essenes who expected the messiah to come and practiced ritual baptism, that is, the pouring of water on the head as a sacrament or holy act. John was apparently put to death by the Roman emperor Herod Antipas for criticising him publicly.

In the Gospel of Mark, John is described as wearing clothes of camel's hair, and living on locusts and wild honey. The Gospel of Matthew adds that John wore a leather belt. The Gospel of Luke adds an account of John's infancy, describing him as the miraculous son of Zachariah, an old priest, and his wife Elizabeth, who was past menopause and therefore unable to have children. According to this account, the birth of John was foretold by the angel Gabriel to Zachariah while he was attending to his duties as a priest in the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. Elizabeth is described as a "relative" of Mary the mother of Jesus, in Luke 1:36. Mary is told by Gabriel, "And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren". Other gospels do not mention this relationship and so some scholars doubt it.

Jesus comes to John, and is baptised by him in the river Jordan. The account describes how, as he emerges from the water, Jesus sees the heavens open and the Holy Spirit descends on him "like a dove", and he hears a voice from heaven that says, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased".

AFP

The Jordan is the Ganga of Christianity. Jesus comes to John, and is baptised by him in the river Jordan. The account describes how, as he emerges from the water, Jesus sees the heavens open and the Holy Spirit descends on him "like a dove", and he hears a voice from heaven that says, "You are my son, the beloved; with you I am well pleased"

This is John's description of it, not a direct statement by Jesus. Unlike the other gospels, it is John himself who testifies to seeing "the Spirit come down from heaven like a dove and rest on him". John explicitly announces that Jesus is the one "who baptizes with the Holy Spirit" and John even professes a "belief that he is the Son of God" and "the Lamb of God". In the Gospels of Mark and Luke, Jesus himself sees the heavens open and hears a voice address him personally, saying, "You are my dearly loved son; you bring me great joy".

However, the Gospels agree that it was his baptism by John in the river Jordan that revealed his mission to Jesus and moved him to retreat into the wilderness to fast and pray for 40 days before coming back to proclaim his ministry. It is said that when Jesus was hungry from fasting, Satan tempted him thrice, promising him great rewards if he did these things. First, to turn stones into bread, then, to throw himself down from a hilltop to test his god, and thirdly, to take the kingdoms of the world by force. But Jesus refused him.

That is why, to honour the strict fast kept by Jesus, Christians observe Lent, and usually give up red meat and alcohol in this period, although lean meat, fish and eggs are consumed. Children are urged to go without cakes and sweets during Lent, and practicing Christian adults apparently hold back from some favourite dish or the other.

I came unexpectedly close to the baptism of Jesus in 2005 while visiting Jordan. I went to the little, brown river Jordan through an atmospheric grove of tamarisk trees in 'Bethany over the Jordan'. The Jordan is the Ganga of Christianity so I did namaste instinctively, and respectfully put some water of Jordan on my head like I would have at an Indian sacred river. Looking up, I noticed an elderly Australian couple staring wistfully at me. They did not dare attempt to come down the muddy bank to the river. I gestured impulsively, asking if they wanted me to fetch them water, and they broke into smiles. So, behold a Hindu scampering up and down the bank with Jordan water in her tightly cupped hands, pouring it on one head, and running back for more. I felt deeply moved, and close to John and Jesus that day on the banks of their holy river.

(Views are personal)

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Carrier care

Ref: *Air India needs invasive surgery* (Mar 16). When the Tatas took over the ailing Air India, which was grappling with a Rs 70,000 crore loss and had 17,000 employees, many expected them to bring the airline back to life. Unfortunately, that has not been the case. If Air India is to live up to the Tata name in aviation, it must prioritise improvements in managerial skills and operational efficiency.

D Sethuraman, email

Transition troubles

Ref: *Air India needs invasive surgery* (Mar 16). The Air India story reflects both national pride and decline, sparking efforts toward redemption. The transition of leadership to the Tatas raised hopes for a turnaround. However, ongoing issues, such as poor service and technical problems, stand in stark contrast to those expectations.

N R Jagannath, Vijayanagar

Embrace tech

Ref: *Leapfrogging laggards on tech cycles* (Mar 16). For any e-commerce business, adapting to cutting-edge technologies has become essential. Firstly, technology boosts revenue by increasing efficiency. Secondly, it helps businesses tackle challenges more effectively. Finally, businesses that embrace innovation can grow rapidly, leaving competitors behind.

Aditya Kamble, Kalaburagi

Kohli's challenge

Ref: *Will continue to play as long as I have fun and enjoy it, says Kohli* (Mar 16). Virat Kohli can continue playing as long as he enjoys it. However, as a legend, he must keep in mind that there are certain expectations placed on him. Cricket fans expect him to perform consistently across all formats. If he fails to do so, he could become a burden to the team.

S Ramakrishnasayee, Chennai

Fitting tribute

Ref: *Ilaiyaraja – His music is a sanctuary* (Mar 16). The article is a fitting tribute to the legend. Ilaiyaraja is a suave, humble, and soft-spoken individual who carefully considers every word he speaks. Music is not just his profession; it is his very essence—he thinks, breathes, lives, and eats music. His music transcends all boundaries—be it caste, creed, region, or language.

D S Gururaj, Bengaluru

Privacy concerns

Ref: *High-level CEC meet on linking Aadhaar, voter ID* (Mar 16). The Chief Election Commissioner has called a high-level meeting to discuss linking Aadhaar with voter IDs. Data security concerns must not be overlooked

Priyanshu Priya, Noida

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Piyush Goyal @PiyushGoyal
Digital transformation has become a cornerstone of progress and economic growth... underscores the pivotal role of innovation for a robust financial ecosystem

D Raja @ComradeDRaja
The BJP is reviving colonial-era tactics, enacting laws reminiscent of the British Raj to silence dissent, while hate speeches by RSS-affiliated elements go unchecked

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
Will the UP administration do justice to a mother by punishing the murderer who openly shot and killed a son in the prime parliamentary constituency?

BJP sees red, questions Piketty's role in T'gana caste survey committee

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

A day after launching an attack on the Karnataka Congress government over its decision to allocate 4% reservation to Muslim contractors in government projects, the BJP on Sunday jit out at the Congress government in Telangana over its decision to engage French economist Thomas Piketty to analyse the state's recent caste survey.

BJP IT-cell chief Amit Malviya was quick to criticise the Congress-led Telangana government, questioning the wisdom of enlisting a foreign economist to handle such sensitive demographic data.

"The Congress-led Telangana government has enlisted French economist Thomas Piketty to analyse and interpret data from the recent caste survey in the state. Is it wise to entrust sensitive demographic data to a foreigner?" Malviya asked in a post, questioning, "Were there no qualified Indian experts capable of handling this task? What explains this eagerness to expose our social fabric to external influences, allowing outsiders to dissect our divisions and potentially fuel discord with their subjective interpretations?"

Malviya did not stop there, and in his attack on the Congress, he took aim at the party's supposed foreign influences. "It seems the Congress is still under the shadow of George Soros, blindly following a path that threatens India's social harmony," he remarked, implying that the decisions were influenced by foreign interests.

Piketty, a prominent economist and chair professor at both Paris School of Economics and the London School of Economics, is globally recognised for his expertise in analysing income and wealth inequality. While his credentials in the field of economics are undisputed, Malviya's remark suggest that entrusting such a task to a foreigner raises concerns.

BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi echoed Malviya's concern, suggesting the move indicates a "deeper mystery" of Congress' relations with foreign entities.

Gabbard to meet Modi, Doval during India visit

US DNI meets intelligence and security officials from 20 countries

JAYANTH JACOB @New Delhi

US Director of National Intelligence (DNI) Tulsi Gabbard arrived in India on Sunday for a three-day visit, making her the first high-ranking official of the Trump 2.0 administration to visit the country. As per sources, she is expected to call on Prime Minister Modi and hold talks with National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval during her stay.

Soon after her arrival, Gabbard joined intelligence and security officials from around 20 countries at a conclave chaired by NSA Doval. The National Security Council Secretariat has hosted the conclave on the sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue since 2022. Gabbard will be speaking at the Raisiana dialogue on Tuesday.

Canadian intelligence chief Daniel Rogers and Britain's MI6 chief Richard Moore will be among the top global intelligence chiefs attending the security conference. The intelligence chiefs of all Quad nations, Australia and Japan are also attending the event.

Effective intelligence sharing, stepping up international cooperation to address terrorism, terror financing, emerging technological threats and ongoing global crises are among the topics to be taken up during the meeting.

Gabbard arrived in India from Thailand during her current multi-nation tour in the Indo-Pacific region, which will also take her to Japan, Thailand, and France.

This marks Gabbard's second international trip since her confirmation as DNI in February, following her attendance at the Munich Security Conference in Germany.

Prime Minister Modi is set to inaugurate the three-day Raisina Dialogue – conference on geopolitics and geo-economics – on Monday. The 10th edition of the conclave will see participation of notable figures, including New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha besides US intelligence chief Gabbard.

The Raisina Dialogue will see participation from representatives of approximately 125 countries, including ministers, former heads of state and government, military commanders, business leaders, technology pioneers, academics, journalists, and experts from prominent think tanks, external affairs ministry said.

10th Raisina Dialogue

This year's Dialogue carries the theme "Kalachakra — People, Peace and Planet." Over the course of three days, decision-makers and leaders from around the world will engage in conversations on six thematic pillars on global politics. New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon will deliver the keynote address at the inaugural session on Monday.

INSIDER TRACK

Modi heads to RSS HQ on March 30

There is speculation that the BJP may decide its new national president in the first week of April. The buzz gets stronger as PM Narendra Modi is expected to visit the RSS headquarters in Nagpur on March 30 and is likely to meet Mohan Bhagwat and other senior functionaries. The visit has sparked rumours that Modi may seek the Sangh's approval for selecting the new BJP chief as well as discuss other important political matters, including the likely induction of RSS-affiliated leaders in the cabinet reshuffle, which is expected to take place in May or June. One source says it would be Modi's first visit to Nagpur since the 2024 Lok Sabha and Maharashtra Assembly elections. The final details of the visit are expected to be confirmed by the PMO soon. Sources suggest Modi may pay tribute at Hedgewar Smriti Bhavan in Reshimbagh and visit Deekshabhoomi, an important Buddhist site. The PM is also expected to attend a foundation-laying ceremony for a private eye hospital, where he could share the stage with Bhagwat.

Buzz on Cong media wing rejig

As Congress undertakes a major organisational reshuffle after a series of poll setbacks, all eyes are on whether the party will make changes at the helm of its communications department, which is crucial in shaping its narrative in the media. According to sources, the names of former Rajasthan deputy CM Sachin Pilot and Chandigarh MP Manish Tewari have emerged in internal meetings as potential candidates for prominent role in the department. However, the party is yet to take a call as it is preparing for the AICC session in Ahmedabad on April 8 and 9.The party acknowledges that holding such a powerful position within the organisation demands political influence to work effectively with the AICC leadership and other units as well as to develop communication strategies to counter BJP's narrative. Currently, the department is headed by Jairam Ramesh. The department includes Pawan Khera, chairman of media and publicity department, and Supriya Shrinate, chairperson of social media and digital platforms.

Constitution, RP Act — gifts from CEC

The Election Commission is facing heat from Opposition parties, which have raised complaints about its conduct. In response to controversies regarding electoral rolls and other issues, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar emphasised that the EC operates solely based on two key documents: The Constitution and the Representation of the People Act, 1951. These, he stated, are the only "Bibles" the EC follows when conducting polls. During an informal interaction, Kumar acknowledged the media as the commission's "true partner" in overseeing the poll process. However, he humorously suggested that before journalists ask questions on behalf of parties, they should familiarise themselves with these two important texts. To drive home his point, he gifted each journalist a hard copy of the Constitution and the RP Act.

Europe eyes defence ties with India

The European Union is focused on deepening strategic ties with India, with the European Commission signaling strong support for the move. Commission president Ursula von der Leyen led the first visit by the College of Commissioners to India on February 27-28. India's strategic location in the Indo-Pacific, through which about 80% of global trade passes, makes it a crucial partner for aintaining regional security and ensuring freedom of navigation—both vital to EU interests. Other European countries are also stepping up their engagement with India. India and Belgium are aiming to finalise a defence agreement within the year. Belgium is also planning to appoint its first defence attaché at its embassy in New Delhi. Germany is working to build stronger defence ties with India, particularly to monitor developments in the Indo-Pacific.

India, NZ to bolster defence ties, FTA talks back on table

JAYANTH JACOB @New Delhi

COINCIDING with the visit of New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon to India from March 16-20, talks for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is back on the table. Both countries are also set to enhance defense cooperation during the five-day visit.

India and New Zealand had been pursuing a free trade relationship through two tracks: bilateral FTA negotiations and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

The last formal round of negotiations for the bilateral New Zealand-India FTA took place in Delhi in February 2015.

"The two nations are pleased to announce the launch of negotiations for a comprehensive and mutually beneficial India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement negotiations," a government release said. This was decided after a meeting between Minister of Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal and New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Investment,

"The India-New Zealand FTA negotiations are designed to achieve balanced outcomes that will enhance supply chain integration and improve market access. This initiative reflects the shared vision of both nations for a stronger economic partnership that promotes resilience, growth, and prosperity," said the release.

This step is expected to open new avenues for cooperation, boosting trade, investment, and overall economic collaboration between India and New Zealand, the statement added.

Prime Minister Luxon has repeatedly emphasised the importance of India as a growing economic and strategic power, highlighting the need to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two nations.

Ahead of his visit to India, Luxon told New Zealand media that the "real commitment" was to deepen trade relations. "We're going to do everything we can to push trade really, really hard," Luxon stated.

India currently accounts for only 1.5% of New Zealand's exports, totaling $1.5 billion, with overall bilateral trade between the two countries reaching $3.1 billion. This figure has been a concern for the Prime Minister, who contrasted it with the nearly $40 billion trade New Zealand has with China.

In strategic terms, India also serves as a counterbalance to China's growing assertiveness in the region. There is potential for enhanced interoperability between the two nations. There is scope for joint training and maritime exercises, further strengthening their cooperation announcement which is expected during the visit.

Prime Minister Luxon has referred to India as "one of the big guys," with the fourth-largest military spending globally. He highlighted that India is "very aligned" with New Zealand on Indo-Pacific security and suggested increasing cooperation in field of defense by conducting joint exercises.

In a 1st, India to co-chair ASEAN defence ministers' meeting on counter-terror

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

INDIA and Malaysia will co-chair the 14th meeting of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts Working Group (EWG) on Counter-Terrorism scheduled to be held in New Delhi on March 19 and 20. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) on Sunday said, "India will co-chair the EWG on Counter-Terrorism for the first time. On March 19, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh will deliver the keynote address during the opening ceremony."

The meeting will lay the foundation for the activities, seminars, exercises and workshops planned for the cycle 2024-2027. "Discussions will focus on evolving a robust and comprehensive strategy designed to tackle the evolving threat of terrorism and extremism. The meeting aims to share the on-ground experience of the defence forces of ASEAN and its dialogue partners," the MoD added.

Delegations from 10 ASEAN members (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Vietnam, Singapore & Thailand) and eight dialogue partners (Australia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Japan, China, the US & Russia) will participate in the meeting besides Timor-Leste and the ASEAN Secretariat.

The current focus of the grouping, according to the Ministry, is "on seven areas of practical cooperation – counter-terrorism, maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster management, peacekeeping operations, military medicine, humanitarian mine action and cyber security."

EWGs have been established to aid cooperation in these areas. The EWGs are each co-chaired by one ASEAN member state and one dialogue partner in a three-year cycle.

Discussions will focus on evolving a robust and comprehensive strategy designed to tackle the evolving threat of terrorism and extremism

Ministry of Defence statement

The task of the co-chairs is to lay down objectives, policy guidelines and directions for the EWG for the three-year cycle at the commencement of the chairmanship, conduct of regular EWG meetings and test the progress made in practical cooperation during the cycle.

Association with RSS legacy a privilege: Modi

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi in the podcast with Lex Fridman broadcast on Sunday spoke about his deep-rooted connection with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the ideological mentor of the BJP, calling it a 'privilege' to be associated with its enduring legacy.

He said the RSS had given his life a purpose and instilled in him the values of 'selfless' service. "I feel blessed to have received my life's purpose and the values of selfless service from the RSS," Modi recalled.

He praised the the Sangh, highlighting its contributions to education and healthcare on a large scale across India.

The Prime Minister contrasted the approach of Leftist labour unions with that of RSS-affiliated unions, saying, "The Leftist union says 'Workers of the world unite'; RSS-affiliated labour union says 'Workers, unite the world'." This distinction, he pointed out, reflects how the RSS instills values in its approach to social service.

Modi also recalled his time at the Ramkrishna Paramhansa Ashram, where he met saints and received their blessings. Reflecting on his interaction with Swami Atmasthananda, Modi recalled how the spiritual teacher told him that his true purpose was to serve people and work for their welfare.

Modi mentioned that India, the land of Buddha and Gandhi, advocates for peace over conflict, and that the world listens to India because of its commitment to harmony.

When asked about the 2002 Godhra riots, Modi claimed that a false narrative had been spread regarding the incident. "Before 2002, Gujarat had witnessed over 250 riots, and communal violence was frequent. But, it was contained to a great extent since 2002," he remarked, adding that since 2002, Gujarat has not witnessed any instance of communal riots.

Modi reiterated that his government does not engage in vote-bank politics but follows the principle of 'Sab ka Sath, Sab Ka Vikas, Sab Ka Vishwas, Sab Ka Prayas'.

Speaking on his personal life, Modi said he has never felt alone, as he believes in the '1+1 theory.' "One is Modi and the other is the divine. I am never truly alone because God is always with me," he said, adding that his mantra is 'Jan seva hi prabhu seva' (Serving people is serving God).

Modi also reflected on Mahatma Gandhi's transformative leadership, hailing the latter's ability to turn India's freedom struggle into a "Jan-adndolan" (mass movement) by recognising the power of "Jan-shakti' (power of people).

He said, "I always strive to involve as many people as possible in every initiative adhering to the Gandhian principle of Jan-Bhagidari (people's participation)," described the Mahatma as the greatest leader of not only the 20th century but the 21st century and beyond.

Regarding his governance model, Modi asserted that he does not follow an election-centric approach. "I don't run people-centric governance; my government follows a policy of saturation – where benefits reach everyone without bias and discrimination," he said.

He expressed pride in being a member of the world's largest political party, the BJP, which, according to him, propagates the 'value of giving'.

Modi also criticised those who propagate misinformation about India, expressing concern over the decline of constructive criticism in public discourse. He noted, "Meaningful debate is being replaced by baseless allegations made without research or facts."

BJP launches Muslim outreach, set to supply aid to 32L families on Eid

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

IN a first-of-its-kind initiative, the BJP is set to reach out to 32 lakh needy Muslim families across the country with help kits, named 'Saughat-e-Modi', on the occasion of Eid and other upcoming religious events. The BJP will launch the outreach through its Minority Morcha which held a meeting here on Sunday.

"We have planned to deliver Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'saughat' (gift) to 32 lakh needy Muslim families on the holy occasion of Eid, which is likely to fall on March 31, subject to moon sighting," BJP Minority Morcha president Jamal Siddiqui told this newspaper.

The Morcha will also host Eid Milan ceremonies at the district levels along with distribution of 'Saughat-e-Modi' kits. Siddiqui said 32,000 office-bearers of the BJP Minority Morcha will carry out this campaign.

"Help kits will be distributed with a message of brotherhood. We will highlight Prime Minister Modi's mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' through 'Sabka Prayas'" he said.

Siddiqui said the 'Saughat-e-Modi' initiative will also continue during other occasions, such as Good Friday, Easter, Navros, and the Indian Samvat New Year, and gifts will be provided to the poor from other minority communities as well. "The BJP is aiming to set an example of 'Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb' by distributing these kits to the poor. Harmony and brotherhood will be highlighted in these festivals," he said.

'Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb' refers to the syncretic and composite culture of the plains of northern India, particularly the doab region of the Ganga and Yamuna, characterised by the fusion of Hindu and Muslim cultural elements.

Each office-bearer of the Morcha has been tasked with identifying 100 needy people, sourcing lists from mosques. "All things required for Eid celebrations and Iftars will be available in the Saughat-e-Modi kits," Siddiqui said.

The decision was made during a meeting chaired by Siddiqui, with the participation of BJP's national general secretary and national in-charge of the Morcha, Dushyant Kumar Gautam. Other key figures, including state in-charges and state presidents, attended the meeting virtually.

Last year, BJP Minority Morcha organised a national membership campaign to achieve the target of making 50 lakh members across the country. The Morcha also visited the Sufi community for the membership drive.

SNOW FALL IN HP

Isolated places in higher reaches of Himachal Pradesh received snowfall while moderate rains lashed parts of the state, the Shimla Meteorological office said on Sunday.

190 PATIENTS WERE EVACUATED AFTER FIRE ERUPTED AT A GOVT HOSPITAL IN MP'S GWALIOR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	34	22	Mumbai	34	26
Bhopal	32	19	Panaji	34	25
Jaipur	28	17	Patna	33	22
Amritsar	27	13	Lucknow	31	18
Chennai	32	27	Port Blair	32	25
Kolkata	36	27	Imphal	27	16
Srinagar	13	01	Chandigarh	28	14

Shah wages war on drug cartels, says no mercy

Lauds NCB for seizing meth tablets worth ₹88 crore, arresting 4 linked to int'l drug trade

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

HOME Minister Amit Shah on Sunday reiterated the government's commitment to uprooting the illegal trade of drugs as he lauded the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) for seizing a consignment of methamphetamine tablets worth ₹88 crore and arresting four members allegedly linked to an international drug cartel in Imphal and Guwahati zones.

"The NCB, through its five zonal units and a regional headquarters in the Northeast, has been continuously working against drug traffickers operating in the region, particularly those involved in the trafficking of synthetic drugs such as methamphetamine tablets, commonly known as YABA, which pose a threat not only to the young population of the region but also to the security of the nation as a whole," the Union minister said.

He described the drug haul as a significant step accelerating "the Modi government's march to build a drug-free Bharat" and warned that they would show drug cartels no mercy. "The drug haul is a testament to the stellar performance of the bottom-to-top and top-to-bottom approach to investigation," he added.

According to an official statement issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), officers of the NCB (Imphal zone) intercepted a truck near the Lilong area on March 13 during an operation. They recovered 102.39 kg of methamphetamine tablets from the toolbox in the rear section of the truck during a thorough search of the vehicle. The two occupants of the truck were also apprehended.

"Without delay, the team immediately conducted a follow-up operation and apprehended the suspected receiver of the contraband from the Lilong area. A four-wheeler used for drug trafficking was also recovered from him. All three were later arrested," added the MHA in the statement.

The ministry noted that the suspected source of the contraband was Manipur's Moreh town and further investigation was under way to nab others involved in the case.

In another operation the same day (March 13), officers of the NCB (Guwahati zone) intercepted an SUV at the Assam–Mizoram border near Silchar based on a tip-off. The officers seized 7.48 kg of methamphetamine tablets concealed inside the spare tyre of the vehicle and arrested the occupant of the vehicle. "The source of the contraband was Moreh, Manipur, and the suspected destination was Karimganj. Further investigations are ongoing to apprehend others involved in the case," an official stated.

Besides, the NCB is reportedly taking over the investigation from the Mizoram State Excise Department into the seizure of about 46 kg of crystal meth at Brigade Bawngkawn, Aizawl, on March 6.

The MHA, in a statement, confirmed that four individuals had been arrested in connection with the case after their links to the drug syndicate were established. A thorough investigation is being conducted to ascertain the international and inter-state links of the drug trafficking network.

Notably, the Northeastern region has emerged as one of the most vulnerable areas in India in terms of drug trafficking due to its geographic location.

Amit Shah with Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma at ABSU conference in Kokrajhar | PTI

NCB to take over probe into Mizoram meth seizure

The NCB is reportedly set to take over investigation into the seizure of about 46 kg of crystal meth at Brigade Bawngkawn in Aizawl on March 6. The MHA, in a statement, confirmed that four individuals had been arrested in connection with the case after their links to the drug syndicate were established. A thorough probe is underway to ascertain the international and inter-state links of the drug trafficking network. The Northeast region has emerged as one of the most vulnerable areas in India in terms of drug trafficking due to its geographic location.

Cong made fun of me but Bodo accord brought peace, development: Shah

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

> All Bodo Students' Union had a big role in the prevailing peace and development in Bodoland. Without it, there would have been no Bodo accord or peace
>
> Amit Shah, Home Minister

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday hit out at the Congress for "making fun" of him when he signed the third Bodo Peace Accord, noting that the pact has brought peace and development in Bodoland.

"I remember the Congress made fun of me when the BTR (Bodoland Territorial Region) peace agreement was signed on January 27, 2020. They said there would be no peace in Bodoland and this agreement would be a joke," Shah said in his address at the 57th annual conference of the All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU) at Dotma in Kokrajhar district.

Shah stated that 82% of the accord's clauses had been implemented by the government and pledged that the remaining clauses would also be implemented in two years, bringing everlasting peace to Bodoland. "The ABSU had a big role in the prevailing peace and development in Bodoland. Without it, there would have been no Bodo accord or peace in Bodoland," Shah said.

He stated the government provided ₹1,500 crore for the development of the BTR, which comprises five districts and is administered by the autonomous Bodoland Territorial Council.

"We brought thousands of youngsters to the mainstream. In the last three years, ₹287 crore has been spent on the rehabilitation of 4,881 cadres of the NDFB (the erstwhile insurgent group National Democratic Front of Bodoland with whom the third Bodo peace accord was signed)," Shah stated. He noted that 90% of the funds came from the Centre.

Pacts with insurgent groups

Shah noted that under PM Modi, the Centre had signed agreements with nine insurgent groups in Assam, bringing over 10,000 youth into the mainstream

RAIPUR DIARY

EJAZ KAISER
Our correspondent in Chhattisgarh
ejaz@newindianexpress.com

Energy meet gets ₹3L cr investment proposals

With a vision to make Chhattisgarh one of the largest energy-producing states, the 'Energy Investors Summit 2025' in Raipur attracted investment proposals worth over `3 lakh crore. Proposals were made for nuclear, thermal, solar, and pump storage power generation projects. Once operationalised, the projects will not only benefit industries but also provide people with affordable power. Private investors are set to contribute `66,720 crore, with Adani Power leading the way. The NTPC plans to set up a 4,200 MW nuclear power project. Jindal Power and NTPC Green invested `10,000 crore to produce 2,500 MW solar power.

Baghel denies ED notice to son in liquor 'scam'

There were unconfirmed reports of former CM Bhupesh Baghel's son Chaitanya being issued a notice by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) last week to appear before it and record his statement. However, Baghel denied that his son was summoned by the central agency after the March 10 raids at his residence in Bhilai as part of a money laundering probe linked to the alleged liquor scam case against his son. The ex-CM said the summons, if served will be complied with, though he questioned the ED for creating a media hype. He claimed the agency action is result of BJP's vendetta.

New surrender, rehab policy for Maoists

Besides the ongoing offensive against the 'Red Rebels', BJP-ruled Chhattisgarh has come out with a comprehensive rehabilitation policy to encourage Maoists to surrender. Union home minister Amit Shah has set March 2026 deadline to eliminate the Maoist menace. The Chhattisgarh Naxalite Surrender/Victim Relief and Rehabilitation Policy 2025 offers higher financial aid, employment opportunities, security, skill development training and other rehabilitation plans. The aim is to motivate Maoists to reintegrate in the mainstream. Apart from extending aid to victims of Naxal violence, the state has appealed to Maoists to give up arms.

No NSA extension, 7 aides of Amritpal brought back to Punjab from Dibrugarh

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

THE Punjab Police is set to bring back seven associates of jailed MP and pro-Khalistan leader Amritpal Singh from Assam's Dibrugarh jail on Monday after the state government decided not to reinvoke the National Security Act (NSA) at the end of their detention period, a top officer said on Sunday.

Sources said that these detainees are to be transferred from the central jail in Dibrugarh of Assam to Punjab on Monday where they will face legal proceedings in the cases against them.

They will be formally arrested in the 2023 Ajnala police station attack incident, DGP Gaurav Yadav said. Amritpal, the chief of the Waris Punjab De outfit, and his nine associates have been in detention in Dibrugarh jail under the NSA since 2023. In 2024, their detention period was extended by a year.

Moga natives Basant Singh, Bhagwant Singh alias Pradhan Mantri Bajeke, Gurmeet Singh Gill alias Gurmeet Bukkanwala and Kulwant Singh Dhaliwal alias Kulwant Singh; Gurinderpal Singh Aujla alias Guri Aujla (Phagwara); Harjeet Singh alias Chacha (Amritsar); and Sarabjeet Singh Kalsi alias Daljeet Singh Kalsi (Delhi) will be brought back to Punjab, according to DGP Yadav.

Their detention period under the NSA is about to expire and the Punjab government has decided not to extend it, he said.

A team headed by Superintendent of Police Harinder Singh Gill is stationed at Dibrugarh jail to execute the seven detainees' arrest. The Punjab Police will produce them before a Dibrugarh court to secure transit remand, ensuring their swift return to Punjab to face trial, Yadav said.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (Border Range, Amritsar) Satinder Singh had earlier said the police would take the probe forward in the 2023 Ajnala police station attack incident. He said the 10 detainees had not been formally arrested in the police station attack incident: "We will arrest the seven persons in FIR number 39 and bring them back to Punjab."

Father ends life after strangling 3 kids to death

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

IN a tragic incident, a 36-year-old man ended his life after strangling his three children in Maheshlitti village of Jharkhand's Giridih on Saturday night. Their bodies were recovered from their house by the police early on Sunday.

The deceased man has been identified as Sanaul Ansari, and his three children as Afreen Parveen (12), Safaul (6) and Zaiba Naz (8).

According to their neighbours, Ansari used to work as a mason and ran a shop at his house. His wife was reportedly away at her parents' place on Saturday, when the incident took place.

On Sunday morning, when nobody answered the knock on their door, people called the police, said a local on the condition of anonymity.

A probe is on to ascertain the details of the case.

Giridih SP Bimal Kumar said, "It is suspected that the man strangled his three children and then hanged himself. We are trying to find out the exact reason behind it."

He said it is yet to be determined what triggered Ansari to take the extreme step.

C'garh BJP and Cong on same page over Bharatmala project

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

ALLEGED irregularities in land compensation distribution for a Central government road project of the Raipur-Visakhapatnam economic corridor under the Bharatmala project have kicked up a political storm in Chhattisgarh. Neither the ruling BJP nor the Opposition Congress is ruling out the possibility of large-scale graft in the execution of the scheme.

Approved by the Centre in 2017, the Bharatmala Pariyojana aims to improve the logistic efficiency and connectivity in the country, covering tribal areas, aspirational districts and Maoist-affected regions through highways.

Sources privy to the developments revealed that the corruption in the Raipur-Visakhapatnam economic corridor under the Bharatmala project came to light after Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari – acting on a report by the vigilance division of the National Highways Authority of India – alerted the Vishnu Deo Sai government.

There are unverified claims that the alleged irregularities in land acquisition compensation for the project have benefitted leaders from the saffron party as well as the Congress.

₹350 CR GRAFT ROW

- The Bharatmala project aims to enhance logistical efficiency and connectivity across the country
- Allegations of irregularities in Union government's highway project sparks controversy
- LoP Charandas Mahant demands CBI probe, alleges over `350 crore embezzlment in project
- State govt rejects demand for CBI investigation, orders Economic Offense Wing probe instead

Congress leaders recently staged a walkout during the state Assembly session to demand a CBI probe. Leader of Opposition Charan Das Mahant has also called for a CBI investigation into the matter.

While the state government has acknowledged the irregularities, it turned down the demand for a probe by the CBI and instead decided to conduct an probe by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW).

The land compensation was distributed in 2021 when the Congress was in power. At the time, BJP leader Chandrashekhar Sahu and party spokesperson Gaurishankar Srivas had lodged complaints with the Prime Minister's Office and the central vigilance commissioner in this regard.

Mahant has alleged a sum of ₹350 crore was embezzled in the execution of the Bharatmala project. The state government has suspended five officials, including the additional collector and deputy collector, in light of the allegations.

Not satisfied with the step, Mahant protested, "Suspending a few officials is not enough. Only a thorough CBI inquiry can unearth the full scale of corruption."

It remains to be seen how the EOW will proceed in its investigation into the matter.

Mewar mourns death of descendant of Maharana Pratap in Udaipur

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

ARVIND SINGH MEWAR, a member of the erstwhile royal family of Mewar and a descendant of the legendary Maharana Pratap, died at the City Palace in Udaipur early on Sunday after prolonged illness, his family said. He was 81.

Arvind Singh was the younger son of Maharana Bhagwat Singh Mewar and Sushila Kumari Mewar. His son Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar shared a message on his social media account, announcing that the final rites of the 'Ekling Diwan' would take place on Monday at 11 am. The Mewar royal family considers Lord Eklingji as the true ruler, while they serve as his Diwan (minister).

Expressing his condolences, Rajasthan CM Bhajanlal Sharma said, "The passing of Arvind Singh Mewar, a senior member of Mewar's royal family, is deeply saddening. His contribution to preserving Mewar's glorious heritage was remarkable.

His inspiring personality and exemplary character will continue to guide future generations." Former CMs Vasundhara Raje and Ashok Gehlot, former deputy CM Sachin Pilot and Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, among others, also extended their condolences.

Arvind Singh received his early education at Mayo College. He later pursued Hotel Management at St Albans Metropolitan College, UK. He in the US between 1979 and 1981. Upon returning to India, he took on the role of personal secretary to his father (1981-1984).

During 1982-83, he served as the General Manager of the Lake Palace Hotel, Udaipur. He was the Chairman and MD of HRH Group of Hotels, a chain dedicated to preserving Rajasthan's royal hospitality. He also led several trusts, including the Maharana Mewar Foundation Trust and and Rajmata Gulab Kunwar Charitable Trust.

In 1972, he married Vijayraj Kumari, the granddaughter of Maharao Vijayarajaji of Kutch. The couple had three children – daughters Bhargavi Kumari and Padmaja Kumari, and a son, Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar.

An advocate for sustainable energy, he spearheaded initiatives to promote solar power in Udaipur. In 1992, he initiated research on solar energy for local transport, leading to the development of six prototype solar rickshaws and an electric motorcycle by 2003.

In November 2024, Arvind Singh found himself in the midst of a family dispute following death of his elder brother, Mahendra Singh. The disagreement revolved around the coronation (Pagri Dastoor) of Mahendra Singh's son, BJP MLA Vishwaraj Singh Mewar.

Joshimath sinking again? Fear grips U'khand

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

FEAR grips residents of Joshimath in Uttarakhand once again as fresh sinkholes and submergence threaten their safety. Alarmed local people alerted authorities, prompting the tehsil administration to conduct an on-site inspection.

The alarming situation has raised concerns within the community regarding safety and stability in the area.

According to disaster management sources, a new sinkhole has formed in a field behind the Chandika Temple in Ravigram of Joshimath, measuring over 10 feet deep. Reports indicate that rainwater is accumulating in the pit. Following the discovery, local residents promptly informed the tehsil administration.

"This area has experienced similar sinkholes during previous disasters," a local resident said, highlighting ongoing concerns about safety and stability in the region.

Authorities are now assessing the situation to prevent further incidents. Local council member Pravesh Dimri expressed concern, stating, "The sudden appearance of a deep pit in the flat land has instilled fear among nearby residents. People are anxious about the risk of land subsidence."

According to sources, a wall collapse on Saturday night in Gandhinagar resulted in debris entering over five homes. Residents are on edge as land subsidence has increased during the rainy season.

Local residents reported the situation to authorities after noticing cracks appearing due to the heavy rainfall. The landslide has caused debris to infiltrate more than four homes, while two others have suffered partial damage. Community members are urging prompt action to address the growing safety concerns in the area.

Chamoli District Disaster Management Officer Nandkishore Joshi said, "We have requested a report from the revenue department regarding the reports of a wall collapse in Jyotirmath and a pit in Ravigram. Further action will be taken accordingly."

The situation is being closely monitored as authorities assess the damage. An expert committee set up in September 2023 to investigate the cause of the submergence raised questions about the "load-carrying capacity" of Joshimath, now renamed as Jyotirmath. However, the committee has given a clean chit to the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), which has been targeted by various organisations and residents of Joshimath for this land subsidence.

According to an assessment report, 1,403 of the total 2,152 houses in Joshimath were affected due to land subsidence in 2023 and these need immediate attention. Incidents of land subsidence in Joshimath were reported in the 1970s too.

A panel set up under the chairmanship of Garhwal Commissioner Mahesh Chandra Mishra submitted a report in 1978, stating that major construction works should not be carried out in the city and the Niti and Mana valleys as these areas are situated on moraines, a mass of rocks, sediment, and soil transported and deposited by a glacier. The Himalayan town lies in seismic zone V (regions most vulnerable to earthquakes) and is prone to landslides and flash floods.

20
students' death penalty upheld by Bangladesh HC for lynching university mate

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	32	23	TDS	Los Angeles	20	10	SNY
Colombo	32	25	SNY	Melbourne	19	15	LC
Dhaka	35	24	SNY	Moscow	-6	-9	LS
Dubai	30	20	SNY	New York	-2	-9	SNY
Houston	31	18	SNY	Singapore	30	25	LR
Istanbul	26	14	SNY	Toronto	-7	-17	LS
London	7	2	SNY	Washington	11	7	LC

US strikes in Yemen kill 31; Houthis to meet 'escalation with escalation'

YEMEN

THE first US strikes against Yemen's Houthis since Donald Trump took office killed 31 people, the rebels said Sunday, with the US president warning "hell will rain down upon" the Iran-backed group if it did not stop attacking shipping corridors.

The Houthis, who have attacked Israel and Red Sea shipping throughout the Gaza war, said children were among those killed. US strikes killed multiple Huthi leaders in Yemen, the White House said Sunday, adding Iran was "put on notice" to stop backing the rebel group and its attacks on Red Sea shipping.

An AFP photographer in the rebel-held capital Sanaa heard explosions and saw plumes of smoke rising.

Attacks on Sanaa, as well as on areas in Saada, Al-Bayda and Radaa, killed at least 31 people and wounded 101, "most of whom were children and women", Houthi health ministry spokesperson Anis Al-Asbahi said. Footage on Houthi media showed children and a woman among those being treated in a hospital emergency room, including a dazed girl with blackened legs wrapped in bandages.

This grab from a footage shared by the US Central Command (CENTCOM) showing a US F/A-18 fighter aircraft taking off from an aircraft carrier at sea amidst operations launched against Huthis in Yemen | AFP

Trump, in a post on social media, vowed to "use overwhelming lethal force" to end the Huthi attacks, which the rebels say are in solidarity with Palestinians amid the Gaza war. "To all Houthi terrorists, Your time is up, and your attacks must stop, starting today. if they don't, hell will rain down upon you like nothing you have ever seen before!" he said. Trump also issued a stern warning to the group's main backer. "To Iran: Support for the Houthi terrorists must end immediately!" he said.

"Do NOT threaten the American People, their President... or Worldwide shipping lanes. If you do, beware, because America will hold you fully accountable and, we won't be nice about it!" The Houthis vowed the strikes "will not pass without response", while Iran's top diplomat Abbas Araghchi condemned the deaths and said Washington had "no authority" to dictate Tehran's foreign policy.

US Central Command, which posted videos of fighter jets taking off and a bomb demolishing a compound, said "precision strikes" were launched to "defend American interests, deter enemies, and restore freedom of navigation". *AFP*

Trump uses 18th-century law for deportations, judge halts it

WASHINGTON

A FEDERAL judge barred the Trump administration Saturday from carrying out deportations under a sweeping 18th century law that the president invoked hours earlier to speed removal of Venezuelan gang members from the United States. US District Judge James E Boasberg said he needed to issue his order immediately because the government already was flying migrants it claimed were newly deportable under President Donald Trump's proclamation to be incarcerated in El Salvador and Honduras. El Salvador already agreed this week to take up to 300 migrants that the Trump administration designated as gang members.

"I do not believe I can wait any longer and am required to act," Boasberg said during a Saturday evening hearing in a lawsuit brought by the ACLU and Democracy Forward. "A brief delay in their removal does not cause the government any harm," he added, noting they remain in government custody but ordering that any planes in the air be turned around.

The ruling came hours after Trump claimed the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua was invading the United States and invoked the Alien Enemies Act of 1798, a wartime authority that allows the president broader leeway on policy and executive action to speed up mass deportations. The act has only ever been used three times before, all during wars. Its most recent application was during World War II, when it was used to incarcerate Germans and Italians as well as for the mass internment of Japanese-American civilians.

In a proclamation released just over an hour before Boasberg's hearing, Trump contended that Tren de Aragua was effectively at war with the United States.

Donald Trump arrives at Palm Beach Airport in West Palm Beach | AP

US flies gang members to El Salvador despite court block order

The United States flew over 200 alleged members of a Venezuelan gang to be imprisoned in El Salvador, President Nayib Bukele said Sunday, after US counterpart Donald Trump invoked wartime legislation to expel the migrants. The deportations took place despite a US federal judge granting a temporary suspension of the expulsions order, apparently as planes were already headed to El Salvador.

Fire kills 59 in nightclub, 155 injured

NORTH MACEDONIA: A massive fire tore through an overcrowded nightclub in North Macedonia Sunday, killing 59 people and injuring 155 in a chaotic escape during a live concert. The tragedy drew messages of support from around the world but focused national attention on corruption in the small Balkan country as authorities detained 15 people. The pre-dawn blaze in the eastern town of Kocani left mostly young people dead and injured due to burns, smoke inhalation and a stampede in the desperate effort to reach the building's single exit, officials said. Videos showed sparkling pyrotechnics on the stage hitting the ceiling followed by scenes of chaos inside the club, with young people running through the smoke as the musicians urged them to escape as quickly as possible. "We even tried to get out through the toilet, to find bars," Marija Taseva, 19, told The Associated Press. Interior Minister Panche Toshkovski said 15 people had been detained for questioning after a preliminary inspection revealed the club was operating without a proper license. He said that the number of people inside the club was at least double its official capacity of 250. *AFP*

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE [CCH-17]
EX.No. 1159/2022
BETWEEN : SRI.B.R RANGASWAMY, S/o of Late R.Rangaiah since dead by Lr's
(a) SMT.R.VIJAYALAKSHMI, W/o of Late B.R.Rangaswamy, Aged about 68 Years
(b) Ms.B.R.SUPRIYA, D/o of B.R.Rangaswamy, Aged about 49 Years
(c) MRS.SHUBHA ROMESH PATEL, D/o of B.R.Rangaswamy, Aged about 45 Years
(D)MS.B.R.KAVITHA, D/o of B.R.Rangaswamy, Aged about 42 Years
(E) MR.B.R.KASTURI RANGAIAH, S/o of B.R.Rangaswamy, Aged about 41 Years
(F) SRI.B.R.DILIP KUMAR, S/o of B.R.Rangaswamy, Aged about 50 Years
All are Residing at: 101 Railway Parallel Road, Kumara park West, Bengaluru **DECREE HOLDERS**
AND : 1. SRI. A.R. ANANTHARAMAN, S/o of Late. A. N Rama Rao, since dead by LR's
1.(a).SMT. A.R. LALITHA, W/o of H.B.premkumar, Aged about 58 years, Residing at No. 529, Old Taluk Kacheri Road, Bengaluru 560 053
...JUDGEMENT DEBTORS

Notice on I.A No. 2 against Proposed Judgement Debtor No.3 U/05 R 20 Of Code of Civil Procedure.

TO: SRI.G. MOHAMMED ZIAULLA, Father Name not known, Aged about 65 years, Residing at No. 18/2. 1st 'A' Cross, New Mission Road Cross. Bengaluru 560 027.

Whereas the above named Petitioner have made a Execution Petition before the Hon'ble II Additional City Civil and Sessions Court against the Judgement Debtors seeking for attachment and sale of movables of Judgement Debtors, Attachment and sale of schedule Immovable property and made an application U/O Rule 10(2) of Code of Civil Procedure to implead you as JDR No. 3 in the above petition.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (CCH-17) on **24/4/2025 At 11 A.M,** in person or through an advocate, to answer the Decree Holders claim in the above-mentioned case.

Take Notice that if you falls to appear on the aforementioned date and time. the case will proceed ex-parte and a decision may be rendered against the Judgement Debtor in your absence.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Part and parcel of premises bearing Old No. 2/148, 524 and 603 and present No. 529, situated in OTC Road, Bengaluru 560 053 bounded as follows: **East :** House belonging to Venkatalakshmamma, W/o Akumal Ahobala Sastry and to lane connecting the backyand with, Tulasithotam lane, **West:** House of Mannaraiah **North:** Thulasi Thotam, **South:** OTC Road.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on this day of **12th March 2025**

By Order Of The Court, Senior Sheristedar City Civil Court Bengaluru

Mylaraiah Associates, Advocates
Office #23, Ground floor, Suraj sadan Apartments, 2nd cross, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560009

KARNATAKA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION

Ugrana Bhavan, No. 43, Primrose Road, Bengaluru - 560 025
PHONE : 080-29533679 FAX :080-29533676
e-mail:gmfinancekswc@gmail.com, Website:www.karnatakawarehousing.in

No.KSWC/ACT/16/2024-25 **Date: 15.03.2025**

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Inviting E-Auction for as FD Investment of Provident Fund an amount of Rs.39.25 crore of Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation.

Calendar of events: **(1)** Date of opening: **17.03.2025. (2)** The last date submission : **24.03.2025 up to 16:00 Hours. (3)** Date of Evalution of Bids: **25.03.2025. (4)** Live of E-Auction: **27.03.2025 Commences at 11:00 Hrs & Concludes at 16:00 Hrs**. (Delta Time 05 Minutes).

For more details, the bankers may refer to e-procurement website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the KSWC office Contact No: 7760966906.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/YC/5717/2024-25 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

Corporate Office : 802, Natraj By Rustomjee, Western Express Highway, Sir M.V. Road, Andheri East, Mumbai - 400 069, Maharashtra.
Kr Puram Branch : Office No. 1218, 2nd Floor, Pooja Complex, Old Madras Road, K R Puram, Bangalore-560036,(Karnataka).
Malleswaram Branch : No.16/12 , Nagarathna Nilaya, First Floor, Opp Dr.Rajkumar Samadhi, 1st A Cross, 2nd Main, Nandini Layout. 2nd Block, Outer Ring Road, Bangalore-560096.

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.(AHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s)to pay to AHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to AHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Sl No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower / Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property
1.	(Loan Code : **21400000442 & 21400001453**) **Kr Puram Branch** **Sathyavelu S** (Borrower) **Bharathi R** (Co Borrower)	**11-03-2025 ₹ 12,92,845.00 & ₹ 1,44,003.00**	Residential Property Bearing Site No. 103, Property No.52, Situated At Billshivale Village , Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangaluru East Taluk (Formerly South Taluk), Bangalore, Measuring East To West : 40 Feet And North To South : 33 Feet, Totally Measuring 1320 Sq Feet. and bounded on the **East by :** Property No.52 Belongs To Jayarama Reddy, **West by :** Road, **North by :** Site No.104, **South by :** Site No.102.
2.	(Loan Code : **18910000190 & 18910000314**) **Malleswaram Branch** **Shashidhara Td** (Borrower) **Rajeshwari C** (Co Borrower)	**11-03-2025 ₹ 26,07,881.00 & ₹ 9,61,936.00**	Property No.400 Assessment No 53, Near To Govt School , Bbmp Ward No:13 Ravindranagar ,Mallasandra Village,Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk,Bengaluru, Mesuring East To West 20 Sq Feet , And North To South 25 Sq Feet, In Total Measuring 500 Sft Along With Residential House. and bounded on the **East by :** Property Belongs To Muniraju, **West by :** Property Belongs To Krishna Murthy, **North by :** Property Belongs To Vijayalakshmi, **South by :** Road.

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to AHFL as aforesaid, AHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of AHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Place : Kr Puram and Malleswaram **Authorised Officer**
Date : 17.03.2025 **Aadhar Housing Finance Limited**

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, MEGA LIFT, BHUBANESWAR

Plot no. A 8/2, Bhoinagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751022
E-Mail: cemlpwr.od@gmail.com

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. 11ML /2024-25

A-1184: On Line open tender is invited for EPC Contract (Turn Key Basis) for Mega Lift, Odisha

1. **Name of Work:** Execution of 04 nos. of Lift Irrigation Schemes with intake points on Surubali jore (Surubali jore ISS), Harihar jore (Harihar jore ISS), Mahanadi River (Near Godheneswar ISS / ISS Kapasira) having Command area between 500Ha. to 2000 Ha. in **Cluster No. XXIX** in the district of Sonepur including its distribution network, up to 1 Ha Chak having total planned Culturable Command Area of 6,710Ha. on "EPC -Turn Key" basis including power system connectivity and Operation & Maintenance of complete commissioned schemes for fifteen years.
2. **Period of completion:** 36 (Thirty-six) calendar months including rainy season.
3. **Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal :** 18.03.2025, 10 A.M.
4. **Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal :** 07.04.2025 up to 5.00 P.M
5. **Name & address of the officer inviting Bid :** Chief Engineer, Megalift, A-8/2, Bhoi Nagar, Bhubaneswar,Pin - 751022
   Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "**https://tendersodisha.gov.in**"

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Megalift
OIPR- 32504/11/0019/2425 **Bhubaneswar**

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
[SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENTS NOs.2(a) AND 2(b) BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION VIDE COURT ORDER DATED: 04/03/2025]
COMAP NO. 469/2023
[VIDEO CONFERENCING / PHYSICAL HEARING]
PETITIONER/S : Mr. KAMASAMUDRAM M RAMAKRISHNA PRASAD
Vs.
RESPONDENT/S : Mr. SANDEEP G PARAVATIKAR AND OTHERS
RESPONDENT No. 2(a) and 2(b)
Mr. S R MALLIKARJUNASWAMY
S/o Mr. M Siddaiah, Since Deceased and Represented by his Legal Representatives
R2(a). Mrs. ARUNA MALLIKARJUNASWAMY
W/o Mr. S R Mallikarjunaswamy, Aged Major,
R2(b). Ms. AMRUTHA
D/o Mr. S R Mallikarjunaswamy, Aged Minor, Represented by her Mother
Mrs. Aruna Mallikarjunawamy,
Both Are Residing at 117, IInd Cross, 7th Main, Bhuvaneshwarinagar, T. Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560023. **...RESPONDENT/S**

Whereas the above named Petitioner has filed the above COMAP / Commercial Appeal on this Court Under Section 13(1-A) of Commercial Court Act 2015 r/w 37(1) (c) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been registered by this court.

Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this Court in person or through an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorized by law to act for you, in this matter **on 05/06/2025 at 10:30 AM** in case you intend to contest the appeal. If you fail to appear, the appeal will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Court, **this 04th Day of March 2025,**
BY ORDER OF THE COURT
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client **1. Mehaboob, 2. Nasreen Banu** both are residing at Flat No.408, on Fourth Floor, DEEPICA'S RESIDENCY, Nagavarapalya Main Road, CV. Raman Nagar, Bangalore.

Our client **1. MEHABOOB, 2. NASREEN BANU** are the absolute owners Property bearing Flat No.408, on Fourth Floor, C Block, having built up area 1490 sq.ft, with car parking space, No.408, in the apartment along with 355 sq.ft of UDS, the Apartment known as "DEEPICA'S RESIDENCY" they have lost the Original Registered Sale Deed bearing document No. KRI-1-04462/09-10 dated 22.02.2010 registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar K.R. Puram, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Thanappa's Land,
West by : Owner's land given to Motati Constructions Pvt Ltd,
North by : Government Nala,
South by : Public Road.

While in their custody. The said property is in possession of **1. Mehaboob, 2. Nasreen Banu** both are absolutely free from any encumbrance whatsoever.

My Client had lost the above mentioned Sale deed & inspite of several efforts the Original Sale deed not found and they have not found and they have lodged the police complaint through online dated 15.03.2025 Lost Report No. 1522192/2025.

If any person found or anyone having any claim or interest over the said property, he/she is requested to forward their claims along with the relevant documents to us within 07 days of this public notice. If we do not receive any claim from any person within 07 days, it will be strictly presumed that this property is absolutely free from any claim or encumbrance and no one has any claim over this property and if any One found the above deed kindly contact below mentioned.

PREMA B DUBALE
FFD VI, 4th Floor, Sampoorna Chambers, Vasavi Temple Road, V.V.Puram Bengluru-560004.
080-42053588 / 080-42296969

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that our client is desirous of transacting in the lands more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter to as the "**Schedule Property**".

Any person having any subsisting claim, right, title or interest, in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner including by way of sale, transfer, assignment, exchange, charge, tenancy, sub-tenancy, lease, sub-lease, license, mortgage, inheritance, share, gift, devise, lien, maintenance, easement, encumbrance, trust, covenant, possession, beneficial interest or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any suit or award passed by any Court or Authority, arbitrator, *lis-pendens*, power of attorney, bequest, FSI, development rights, partnership, family arrangement or settlement or otherwise encumbrance of any nature howsoever ("**Claim**"), are hereby requested to respond with documentary proof to the undersigned within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be presumed that no such Claim exists and if it existed, the claimant has relinquished such Claim and/or waived their right to exercise such Claim.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agricultural lands totally admeasuring approximately 6.625 acres comprised in survey numbers set out below, as detailed below, situated at Irabanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District.

SURVEY NO	EXTENT (IN ACRES)	OWNER/S
26/1	2.05	Mr Ashok Kumar I K son of Kalappa
26/3	3.00	Mr Anand Kumar I K son of Kalappa

Dated the 17th day of March 2025

Sudheer Madamaiah
Partner
Khaitan & Co LLP
Embassy Quest, 3rd Floor
45/1, Magrath Road
Bengaluru - 560 025
T: +91 80 4339 7000

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking

(OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA)

TENDER NOTICE

E-tender is invited for the supply of following item.

(1) 79996 - 6.6 KV 350 MVA Switchgear Bus Section.

Note: For more details, log on to website **https://mahatenders.gov.in**

PRO/AAM(M)/126/2025 **GENERAL MANAGER**

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS, CIRCLE, BHAWANIPATNA

O-1604 ☎- 06670-235504, E_Mail: serwbpt@yahoo.com

Bid identification No.:- BPT/Online-15/2024-25 Date-11.03.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR BRIDGE WORKS IN ODISHA NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Building Works in the District of Kalahandi and Nuapada.
2. No of Works : 04 Nos.
3. Location details : Kalahandi and Nuapada DIstrict
4. Estimated Cost : As per NIT.
5. Period of Completion : As per NIT.
6. Cost of tender paper : Rs.10,000/- per set.
7. Other details :

Availability of tender for online bidding		Last date & time for seeking tender clarification	Date and time of opening of technical bid
From	To		
18.03.2025 11.00 A.M.	03.04.2025 5.00 P.M.	02.04.2025	04.04.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the web site "**www.tendersorissa.gov.in**"

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Bhawanipatna
OIPR- 25102/11/0015/2425

TUNGABHADRA BOARD: TB DAM

e-Procurement Long & Short Term Tender Notice IFB Nos.104/2024-25 to 128/2024-25 Dt.15.03.2025 & 120/2023-24 Dt.10.01.2024 (3rd Call)

Tender for **26 Nos. of Works** in respect of HW & HLC Division, TB Dam and LLC Division, Ballari under 'Various Category' are invited through 'e-Procurement'.

Bid Document downloading Start Date & Time:	17.03.2025 at 11:00 AM
Bid Document downloading End Date & Time: **Upto Rs.300.00 Lakhs**	24.03.2025 at 3:00 PM
Bid Document downloading End Date & Time: **Above Rs.300.00 Lakhs**	1.04.2025 at 3:00 PM
Bid Submission End Date & Time: **Upto Rs.300.00 Lakhs**	24.03.2025 at 5:30 PM
Bid Submission End Date & Time: **Above Rs.300.00 Lakhs**	01.04.2025 at 5:30 PM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage: **Upto Rs.50.00 Lakhs**	24.03.2025 at 6:00 PM
Date of opening of PQ Stage: **Above Rs.50.00 Lakhs and Upto Rs.300.00 Lakhs**	24.03.2025 at 6:00 PM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage: **Above Rs.50.00 Lakhs and Upto Rs.300.00 Lakhs**	24.03.2025 at 6:00 PM
Date of opening of PQ Stage: **Above Rs.300.00 Lakhs**	02.04.2025 at 11:00 AM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage: **Above Rs.300.00 Lakhs**	09.04.2025 at 11:00 AM
Bid Document downloading End Date & Time: **Expression of Interest (EOI)**	15.04.2025 at 3:00 PM
Bid Submission End Date & Time: **Expression of Interest (EOI)**	15.04.2025 at 5:30 PM
Date of opening of PQ Stage: **Expression of Interest (EOI)**	15.04.2025 at 6:00 PM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage: **Expression of Interest (EOI)**	17.04.2025 at 11:00 AM

Further details can be seen @ https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in

Preliminary Meeting for Expression of Interest (EOI)
1. 21.03.2025 at 11:00 AM
2. 27.03.2025 at 11:00 AM
3. 05.04.2025 at 11:00 AM

Ph: 08394 - 259114
Fax: 08394 - 259167

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
I.B, TB Board, TB Dam

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited

(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)

Tender No. BMRCL/ED(C&AM)/PD/K.R.Puram/3/2025-2026 **Date: 17.03.2025**

Notice Inviting Tender

Request for Proposal for Integrated Property Development at K.R. Puram Metro Station, Bengaluru

THE PROJECT

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited ("BMRCL") is the nodal agency entrusted with the responsibility of implementation of Bangalore Metro Rail Project. The primary aim of Bengaluru sMetro is to provide comfortable, safe and economical travel to the commuters and to decongest the traffic in Bengaluru City. With an aim to enhance city wide connectivity, BMRCL is also focusing on enhancing non-fare box revenues.

In its endeavour to increase the non-fare box revenues, BMRCL intends to undertake commercial development and public parking facility in an area of 6,730 sq.mt.of land parcel near K.R. Puram Metro Station, Bengaluru through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) on a Design, Finance, Build, Operate and Transfer ("DFBOT") framework for a period of 30 (thirty) years including 2 (two) years of Construction Period (the "Project").

ABOUT THE BIDDING

BMRCL invites proposals from competent entity(ies) in accordance with the Request for Proposal (RFP) Document. The Bidding Documents (Request for Proposal (RFP) and Draft Concession Agreement (DCA) may be downloaded against online payment of **Rs.10,000/-** (Rupees Ten Thousand only) inclusive of GST from BMRCL website, **www.bmrc.co.in** or can be purchased from the Office of the BMRCL by paying the requested amount through **Demand Draft issued by any Nationalized Bank or a Scheduled Bank in India, in favour of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited,** payable at Bengaluru **from 17.03.2025 onwards.** A Bid Security (Earnest Money Deposit) of **Rs.1,74,00,000** (Rupees One Crore Seventy Four Lakhs only) is required to be submitted in the manner set out in the RFP Document.

Important Dates:
RFP Issue Date: 17.03.2025
Last Date for Submission of bid queries 29.04.2025
Pre bid meeting Date: 15:00 Hrs on 29.04.2025
Last date for Sale of RFP: 29.04.2025
Last Date for submission of bids: 13.05.2025 upto 15:00 Hrs
Opening of Technical Bids: 13.05.2025 at 15:30 Hrs

Project Proponent	Project Advisor
Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) 3rd Floor, BMTC Complex, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru – 560027 Phone: +91-80-22969300/ 22969274 /20969280 Email: raghavendra@bmrc.co.in, pdland@bmrc.co.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in	**Infrastructure Development Corporation (Karnataka) Limited (iDeCK)** 9/7, KCN Bhavan, Yamunabai Road, Madhavnagar Extension, Off Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560001, Phone:+91-80-43448000 Email: girish.panduranga@ideck.in

Note: *BMRCL reserves the right to cancel this invitation and / or invite fresh Bids with or without amendments to this invitation, without liability or any obligation for such invitation and without assigning any reason whatsoever.*

Sd/-
Executive Director (C&AM), BMRCL

Income tax disclosures in new fiscal year

Since certain benefits are not applicable under the new tax regime, compliance is simpler compared to the old regime

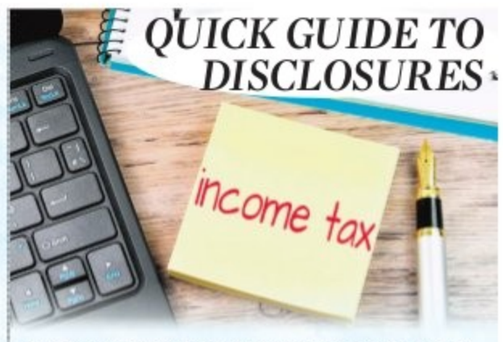
UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

COME April 1, 2025, changes in the income tax slabs will come into effect under the new tax regime. While it is up to individual taxpayers to choose between the old and new tax regimes, the government has introduced various incentives, including nil tax liability for those who are earning up to ₹12 lakh, in order to encourage the adoption of the new tax regime.

Disclosures under new, old regimes

There are certain disclosures that need to be made by taxpayers under both the regime that include all bank accounts and interests: Taxpayers need to clearly state their bank accounts number and also interest earned on savings accounts should be mentioned. It is not necessary to report dormant accounts and one primary account needs to be selected for receiving refunds, if any.

They need to disclose their unlisted shares, directorship/partnership, assets and liabilities, apart from foreign assets or income if any.


QUICK GUIDE TO DISCLOSURES
income tax
Individual taxpayers need to clearly state their bank accounts number and also interest earned on savings accounts
Under old tax regime, taxpayers should disclose Section 80C (investments), 80D (health insurance), 80E (education loan interest), 80G (donations)
In the new tax regime, Chapter-VIA deductions cannot be claimed, except deduction u/s 80CCD(2)/80CCH/80JJAA as per the provision of Section 115BAC of the Income Tax Act, 1961
IF A TAXPAYER PREFERS THE OLD TAX REGIME, HRA IS EXEMPTED UNDER SECTION 10(13A)

Old tax regime

Harsh Bhuta, Partner at Bhuta Shah & Co LLP said under the old tax regime, taxpayers must disclose additional details due to various exemptions and deductions available. These include:

Deductions: Section 80C (investments), 80D (health insurance), 80E (education loan interest), 80G (donations)

Allowances & Exemptions: House Rent Allowance (HRA) claims (rent paid, landlord details), Leave Travel Allowance (LTA) exemption (travel expenses)

Other Disclosures: Home loan interest (Section 24b), set-off and carry-forward of house property losses, exempt allowances (education, transport), and perquisites.

"In contrast, the new tax regime offers lower tax rates but disallows most deductions and exemptions, requiring only basic income disclosure. Since benefits like HRA, LTA, and Chapter VI-A deductions are not applicable, compliance is simpler," he said. If a taxpayer prefers the old tax regime, House Rent Allowance (HRA) is exempted under section 10(13A). However, this exemption is not available in the new tax regime. In this case, rent receipts should be included and it should have the landlord's name, rent amount, payment date and address.

One of the common exemptions is Leave Travel Allowance or Concession. This exemption is also available for LTA received from a former employer. It can be claimed for any two years and applies only for domestic travel.

In the new tax regime, Chapter-VIA deductions cannot be claimed, except deduction u/s 80CCD(2)/80CCH/80JJAA as per the provision of Section 115BAC of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

IN CONVERSATION

AMISHA VORA
Chairperson and MD, Prabhudas Lilladher

'Investors should focus on quality large-cap stocks'

THE Indian equity markets have been grappling with volatility and uncertainty over the past several months. With multiple headwinds—ranging from slowing economic growth and tight domestic liquidity to relentless FII outflows and surging inflation—investors are understandably cautious. In a conversation with **Dipak Mondal**, **Amisha Vora, chairperson and MD of Prabhudas Lilladher**, shares her perspectives on the current market landscape. Edited excerpts:

The Indian equity market has been going through a tough phase lately. When do you see a recovery? Is there light at the end of the tunnel?

If you look back, India was one of the fastest-growing economies. However, over the last nine months, growth slowed down due to factors like multiple state and national elections, which led to lower government spending, particularly on capital expenditure. This impacted industries like capital goods, steel, and cement. Additionally, there was incessant selling by FIIs (Foreign Institutional Investors), and domestic liquidity became tight. Consumer price inflation also surged to 9-10% due to rising vegetable prices and duties on palm oil. This combination hurt corporate earnings, especially in the October-December quarter, leading to a de-rating of stocks. However, things are changing. The RBI has started pumping liquidity into the system, and the government has increased capital expenditure and provided tax relief to boost consumption. Markets have already corrected significantly—large caps by 15-17% and small caps by over 20%.

Should investors stay away from mid and small-caps? What are the sectors investors should look at now?

Mid and small-caps where fundamentals don't justify valuations are risky. Many of these companies have questionable management and poor balance sheets. If businesses don't bounce back, their stock prices won't either. Investors should review their portfolios and cut losses in poor-quality stocks, reallocating to quality businesses. We are recommending sectors like pharma, healthcare, hospitals, defense, and hotels, as they offer better growth visibility and are less impacted by global trade tensions.

Investors should review their portfolios carefully. Stay invested in quality businesses with healthy cash flows. If you hold poor-quality stocks, switch to better ones.

Some large-cap stocks are now attractively valued. Does that mean the benchmark indices like Nifty and Sensex have limited downside from here? Could we see a relief rally soon?

I don't foresee another 15% correction in the Nifty. A 3-5% dip over the next two months is possible, especially with the upcoming Trump-Modi discussions on tariffs, which could create some volatility. But a deeper correction of 10-15% has a low probability—maybe just 10%. Retail investors should focus on quality large-cap stocks with strong fundamentals and growth potential. Investors should review their portfolios carefully. Stay invested in quality businesses with healthy cash flows, low debt, and strong return on equity. If you hold poor-quality stocks, switch to better ones.

Regulatory changes have affected retail participation in the markets, especially in F&O. Has this been detrimental?

Volumes have dropped, particularly in cash segments, due to reduced profits and stuck positions. F&O regulations were tightened, and while they reduced speculative trading, they likely prevented bigger losses for retail investors. Education and awareness are key in derivatives trading.

Some say retail investors should stop SIPs in mid-cap and small-cap funds. What's your view?

They shouldn't stop SIPs but should rebalance portfolios. Leave the asset allocation decision to professional fund managers who can better judge the market cycle and risks. Small-caps carry higher risks due to liquidity and management constraints, so investors should be cautious.

MONEY-WISE

HOW FLEXIBILITY HELPS FLEXI-CAP MFs

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India.
He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com
(Views expressed here are personal)

IN the last quarter of 2017, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced tightly defined categories of equity mutual funds based on market capitalisation. But it soon woke up to the fact that many Asset Management Companies (AMCs) that ran multi-cap funds had portfolios that more or less mirrored other categories such as large cap, large and mid-cap or even mid-cap and small cap funds as it had set no pre-defined limits across market-capitalisations.

SEBI then announced that Multi Cap Funds are required to hold at least 75% of their assets in equity and equity-related instruments at any point in time.

Further, the portfolio must allocate at least 25% of its assets to large-cap stocks, 25% to mid-cap stocks, and another 25% to small-cap stocks. When the industry protested, SEBI back-tracked and created yet another category named Flexi-Cap Funds.

Flexi Cap Funds are defined as funds that invest at least 65% of their assets in equities and equity-related products, with a dynamic allocation between large-cap, mid-cap, and small-cap stocks.

It was introduced as a new category of equity funds in November, 2020. As opposed to multi-cap funds, these funds had the leeway to provide heavier weightage in their investments across any market capitalisation category, if they deemed it fit. Any remaining portion that the fund may have, after investing in stocks across market capitalisations can be invested in debt and money market instruments.

In short, it is not strait-jacketed by minimum or maximum limits across market capitalisation categories. It is by and far, the closest fit to the erstwhile vanilla funds that past mutual fund investors had built their fortunes on, till SEBI's categorisation of funds happened.

It is against this backdrop that I was surprised when SEBI imposed a minimum 25% across market capitalisation categories for multi- cap funds. My question back then (regular readers of this column might remember) was - 'If it ain't broken, why fix it'? Thankfully, better sense prevailed and the old multi-cap category which was the one that was tinkered with, made a comeback under the revised label of Flexi-cap funds.

The taxation of these funds, like all other Equity category Funds is 12.5% for Long Term Capital Gains (LTCG) made on the sale of units of total value exceeding ₹1.25 Lakh, and 20% for Short Term Capital Gains (STCG) if the units are sold within the time period of 1 year from the date of allotment.

The benchmarks used by Flexi Cap Funds and Multi Cap Funds to evaluate their performance include the Nifty 500 TRI Index and & BSE 500 TRI Index.

As an equity fund, Flexi Cap funds too carry inherent risk that is likely to accentuate in the short run and could potentially even out in the long run. A plus for the Flexi-Cap category is that it offers the fund manager a much broader canvas to deploy funds and allows them to be far more nimble footed when market trends start changing.

MONEY MATTERS

WHY INVESTING NEEDS YOUR LOGIC THAN EMOTIONS

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

YOUR investment decisions are influenced by 150 different emotions that you experience in your lifetime. To invest successfully, you must manage your emotions, according to Daniel Crosby's seminal work, The Behavioral Investor, published in 2016.

Greed and fear are two powerful emotions that drive prices in financial markets. Most of the 150 emotions we experience culminate in greed or fear. Eventually, that makes you buy or sell any asset. You can set your emotions free only after making sense of the information that comes your way. While rationalising emotions is impossible, it is easier to derive them from statistics analytics that point in a particular direction.

By analysing the fundamentals of a business, a sector or an economy, you try to make rational decisions. However, on most occasions, managing emotions gets trickier than you think.

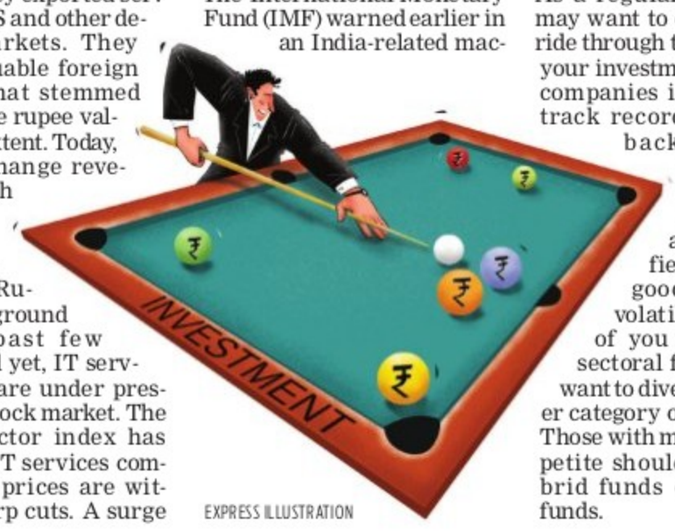
For a long time, the IT services sector has been a bellwether sector. When the Rupee tumbled in international markets, most investors sought refuge in IT sector shares as they exported services to the US and other developed markets. They earned valuable foreign exchange that stemmed the fall in the rupee value to some extent. Today, foreign exchange revenue through IT services exports has jumped multi-fold, the Rupee has lost ground over the past few months, and yet, IT services stocks are under pressure in the stock market. The Nifty IT sector index has tumbled as IT services company share prices are witnessing sharp cuts. A surge in volatility in the US stocks represented the VIX index. IT sector stocks have an inverse relationship with the US stocks volatility index. There is also a visible pressure on revenue. In a recent release, ICRA, an Indian credit ratings agency, said that the revenue growth in the financial year 2025-26 is likely to remain muted. That is still no reason for such a sharp cut in share prices when headline numbers are in favour.

The answer is in the volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous VUCA world. It is not just because of the threat of tariffs on all imports that the US president is hitting the world. There is a disruption in changing business models. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned earlier in an India-related macro report that artificial intelligence and automation in IT services are increasingly reducing the demand for routine labour-handling tasks like customer service, transaction processing and technical support. It warned of a risk of reshoring to the US. Most Indian and sizeable global IT services companies employ thousands of Indian workers to offer such services to global corporate customers. The offshoring model is at a significant risk.

There are at least a trillion dollars that American corporations are sitting on their balance sheets. There is scope for discretionary technology-related spending. Indian IT services companies that adapt and offer solutions quickly could succeed eventually. However, a change is underway, and it will hit revenue growth in the short to medium term. You may want to listen to Indian IT services companies carefully during the March 2025 quarter financial results phase. They could still regain the status of being the bellwether sector. But the path ahead could be thorny.

What can you do

As a regular investor, you may want to ensure you can ride through these times with your investment. IT services companies in India have a track record of bouncing back the fastest among sectors in times of difficulty. Keeping a well-diversified portfolio is a good option when volatility rules. A lot of you invest through sectoral funds. You may want to diversify to a broader category of equity assets. Those with moderate risk appetite should switch to hybrid funds or multi-asset funds.



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Why are Tesla sales and shares falling?

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

ELON Musk's Tesla is facing significant challenges as its global sales and stock prices are tumbling. The company, which has long dominated the electric vehicle (EV) market, is now struggling to compete with Chinese automakers like BYD, which recently overtook Tesla as the world's largest EV producer. Adding to Tesla's woes, Musk's controversial political views and affiliations have alienated some consumers, further impacting sales and investor confidence.

In 2024, Tesla produced 1,774,442 electric vehicles, falling just 4,500 units short of BYD's 1,777,965. The decline in Tesla's sales is particularly evident in its two largest markets: the United States and China. According to S&P Global Mobility, new Tesla registrations in the US fell by 11% in January 2025 compared to the previous year, even as competitors reported growth. In China, Tesla's sales dropped by a staggering 51.47% month-on-month and 49.16% year-on-year in February 2025, according to the China Passenger Car Association (CPCA). Europe has also seen a sharp decline in Tesla's sales, with a 45% drop reported by Jato Dynamics. In Germany, Tesla registrations plummeted by 76% in February 2025 after Musk endorsed the far-right political party- AfD. Similar declines were observed in Norway, Denmark, Sweden and France. The company is also facing boycotts and protests in the UK and Portugal, further denting its reputation and sales. Elon Musk's political activities have become a significant point of concern for investors and consumers alike.

A recent survey by Morgan Stanley revealed that 85% of respondents believe Musk's controversial political views are negatively impacting Tesla's business. Musk's vocal support for US President and his involvement in Trump's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) have drawn criticism, with some consumers opting to boycott Tesla vehicles altogether. Tesla's strategy of cutting prices to compete with cheaper Chinese EVs has also backfired. While price reductions have provided a short-term boost in sales, they have severely eroded the company's profit margins, leading to investor unease. Add to it, Chinese EV makers continue to sell tech-heavy and feature-rich electric cars at prices far lower than Tesla. With a sharp focus on affordability, technology and styling, particularly in the EV space, Chinese companies have already disrupted the global car market.

Nifty likely to trade in 22,200-22,700 range amid want of positive cues

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE equity markets are expected to remain in a consolidation phase, with the Nifty50 likely to remain within a well-defined range of 22,200 to 22,700. The index has been struggling to break past key resistance levels amid persistent global uncertainties and cautious investor sentiment.

Without a decisive breakout, the near-term outlook suggests continued range-bound movement, punctuated by volatile intraday swings. According to analysts, the immediate levels to watch are the psychological barrier at 22,500 and the critical resistance zone of 22,650–22,700. A decisive move above these levels could trigger a short-covering rally toward 23,000. On the downside, the 22,200–22,300 zone remains a key support band. A breach below 22,200 could open the doors for a deeper correction, with potential targets at 22,000 and even 21,964 in the worst-case scenario. Osho Krishnan, Sr. Analyst - Technical & Derivatives at Angel One, said, "The zone of 22,650-22,700, representing a confluence of the 20 Day exponential moving average (DEMA) and the bearish gap on the weekly chart, seems a formidable obstacle for the benchmark index. A decisive breakout could potentially generate some upward momentum in the upcoming week. Conversely, the subzone 22,300-22,250 is projected to serve as a robust line of defense." For the upcoming sessions, the broader sentiment remains cautious. Global uncertainties, especially around interest rates and geopolitical tensions, continue to weigh on risk appetite. As a result, traders are likely to favour a 'buy on dips and sell on rallies' approach until a clear breakout or breakdown is confirmed. The markets wrapped up the truncated week on a muted note, with the Nifty50 declining by 0.69%.

KKR pick Sakariya as replacement for Umran

Kolkata Knight Riders has picked Chetan Sakariya as a replacement for medium pacer Umran Malik for the upcoming edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL). Malik, the pacer from Jammu and Kashmir, has been ruled out of the season due to an injury. Sakariya has represented India in an ODI and two T20Is and has played 19 IPL games, scalping 20 wickets.

FOCUS ON GUJARAT, KOLKATA

With the Indian Premier League (IPL) beginning on **March 22,** we begin our countdown to the 18th edition of the franchise league. Here's a brief on Gujarat Titans, the champions in 2022, and Kolkata Knight Riders, the holders.

PICS: SPORTZPICS

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

KEY PLAYERS

SUNIL NARINE

With 488 runs and 17 wickets last season, the former West Indies all-rounder played a big role in the Kolkata franchise winning their third title. Then mentor Gautam Gambhir increased his impact manifold by bringing him back as an opener and once again he will hold the key for the Knights.

VARUN CHAKARAVARTHY

The TN spinner was the leading wicket-taker last season with 21 scalps. His show in the Champions Trophy, albeit in the 50-over format, will only add to his confidence and make him more lethal this season.

BIG SIGNINGS

VENKATESH IYER

Technically he is their biggest new signing with `23.75 crore but the MP all-rounder has been their with the outfit since 2021. Also vice-captain this season, he has the ability to ride the storm in the middle overs.

QUINTON DE KOCK

Bought for `3.60 crore, the former South Africa wicketkeeper-batter has the ability to fill the void created after the departure of Phil Salt. If preferred ahead of Rahmanullah Gurbaz, he can give a quick start alongwith Narine.

SUBPLOTS

Explosive middle-order

The team has one of the best middle-order with the likes of Rinku Singh, Andre Russell and Ramandeep Singh in their ranks. These power hitters can thrive on a good start to bat their opponents out of the game.

NEW CAPTAIN

KKR have a new captain in the form of Ajinkya Rahane. How he fares in his role as the skipper could decide their campaign in the tournament. Rahane has already shown he can be a good T20 batter and his stocks can only soar if he impresses with his captaincy.

GUJARAT TITANS

KEY PLAYERS

RASHID KHAN

One of the finest spinners in T20 cricket, Khan has played 121 IPL matches claiming 149 wickets so far. One of the five players retained by the franchise, he needs to find back his mojo both with ball and bat if the team wishes to win its second title.

SHUBMAN GILL

The captain was their second-highest scorer the previous season. A good start by him along with Sai Sudharsan can set the tone for the tournament.

BIG SIGNINGS

JOS BUTTLER

Signed for `15.75 crore, Jos Buttler could provide the momentum the team lacked last year. An explosive batter, the former England captain can take down any bowling attack on his day to take the contest away from the opponents.

KAGISO RABADA

GT have bolstered their pace attack by adding Kagiso Rabada by shelling out `10.75 crore on him. The South African can bowl both up front and in death overs to keep a check on the batters.

SUBPLOTS

All-rounders

The team boasts an array of all-rounders, including Rashid, Glenn Phillips, Washington Sundar, and Rahul Tewatia. Add to it the Tamil Nadu duo of R Sai Kishore and Shahrukh Khan, they have depth and versatility in their playing XI.

PACE ATTACK

Apart from having an excellent spin attack, the 2022 winners have assembled a powerful pace attack with Rabada, Gerald Coetzee, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, and Ishant Sharma. It's a blend of experience and up and coming talent making them one of the most threatening attacks in the tournament.

WPL: Captain Harmanpreet and the art of counterpunch

KALYANI MANGALE @ Chennai

Mumbai Indians skipper Harmanpreet Kaur holds the WPL trophy | SPORTZPICS

DURING the T20 World Cup 2024, in the group stage game against Australia at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium, India were chasing 151 to stay alive in the competition. Having already lost to New Zealand in the opener, they had to find the win; otherwise, they had to hope that other results went their way. India's captain, Harmanpreet Kaur, tried her best to cross the line, but her unbeaten 54 off 47 was in vain.

Kaur has had many such innings for India where she has tried to marshall the troupes with the lower-order batters. Her 65 against the same side in the 2022 Commonwealth Games gold medal fixture or 52 in the semifinal at Cape Town at the 2023 T20 World Cup. She has fought hard on every given occasion and each time, the result did not go her way.

Cut to March 15, 2025, at the Brabourne Stadium. Kaur, now the captain of Mumbai Indians, walked in to bat after watching her side inch painfully to 20 runs off six overs — their second worst powerplay score across three seasons. Mumbai's highest run-scorer Natalie Sciver-Brunt was also struggling at the other end. Throughout the season, it was a known fact that Mumbai were not the fastest side to start the proceddings. However, once they caught fire in the middle overs, it became hard to stop the juggernaut. On Saturday, Kaur had to start from scratch. She welcomed Annabel Sutherland with a boundary. Later, Sutherland looked clueless when Kaur clobbered the Australian for a six.

Jess Jonassen, another Australian, who has had the wood over Kaur in the past, got smashed for three consecutive boundaries. The tables turned and the captain was at the centre of it. Neither Shika Pandey nor Minnu Mani could do anything to stop the leaking runs as Mumbai were back in the contest. Despite losing Sciver-Brunt and a few others at the other end, the captain showed no signs of slowing down despite the pain. By the time she got out for 66, courtesy of Sutherland, Kaur had made sure that Mumbai had put a competitive total. A few deliveries later, Mumbai finished on 149/7, which proved to be too much for perennial finalists Delhi Capitals.

Kaur has always been that kind of a player. Despite multiple injury scares or on occasions when things did not go her way, she has found a way to stay afloat. The difference in the WPL final was the player at the other end. Someone like Sciver-Brunt, despite struggling throughout her knock, knew what was needed to be done to keep the scorecard ticking. So even when their opposition looked in control, there was room to take on the game and that is what the duo did.

For most of her knocks for India in the past, Kaur has hardly received any help from other batters. If that changes for the national side soon, the results should start going India's way.

WRESTLING

Sujeet restarts Oly quest with Asian meet

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

WRESTLER Sujeet Kalkal had endured tough times in the last couple of years. He had to move court to contest the direct entry given to Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist Bajrang Punia by the ad-hoc committee for the Asian Games in 2023. A few months later, he had to miss the Asian Olympic Games Qualifier in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan as he got stranded in Dubai due to inclement weather. A month later he lost the bronze medal bout in the World Olympic Games Qualifier to miss out on the chance to represent the country at the 2024 Paris Games.

It was a difficult period for the athlete especially as he had just graduated to the senior level less than a year ago. The 23-year-old from Haryana, however, is ready for the new Olympic cycle and wants to make sure he doesn't have to undergo such tough times by polishing his skills with each passing day. He has already booked a place in the national team by winning the selection trials in the 65kg. "A medal at the upcoming Asian Championships scheduled in Amman (scheduled from March 25-30) will be the first target," Sujeet told this daily.

Getting back to the wrestling mat was difficult last year but Sujeet didn't let the disappointments overtake his future aspirations. A training camp in Yokohama, Japan in November last year worked wonders for the wrestler as he improved his game by leaps and bounds. "It was a difficult period especially not qualifying for the Olympics. But I then attended a training camp in Japan. There were few areas where I was lagging behind. I worked on those aspects. The power was missing somehow so I worked on it. The explosive workouts I did there under the guidance of the Japanese coaches improved me as a wrestler. It gave me an edge over my competitors here in India. The sparring partners in Japan were renowned wrestlers which also helped a lot," said Sujeet.

He missed the national championships and the subsequent 2025 National Games but staked his claim for the selection trials held by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) by clinching a gold medal in the Federation Cup organised early this month. Sujeet's family lives in Dadri, Haryana but his father-cum-coach, Dayanand Kalkal, has shifted with him to Sonepat so that he can focus on wrestling and trains regularly at Raipur Akhada. It also meant he had to stay away from his mother Manjeet Devi and twin sister Sujata for months. Sujeet, however, is not complaining as his target is the 2028 Olympics.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

BCCI's medical team head Patel resigns

NEW DELHI: The BCCI's recently inaugurated Centre of Excellence (COE, earlier NCA) is expected to witness a few changes in composition of its staff in coming few months after Sports Science and Medical team head Nitin Patel tendered his resignation after a successful stint of nearly three years. A source said that a few Level 3 coaches and instructors along with some of the S&C coaches could make a move in some months time. NCA head VVS Laxman's tenure is set to get completed by the end of this year and it is unlikely that he would seek an extension.

Kiwis beat Pakistan by 9 wickets in the 1st T20I

CHRISTCHURCH: A new era for Pakistan white ball cricket got off to a rough start Sunday with a nine wicket loss to New Zealand in the first of five T20I. The Pakistan batting crumbled against the New Zealand pace attack and the tourists were all out for 91 in 18.4 overs, its fifth-lowest total in T20Is. New Zealand easily ran down that total, reaching 92-1 from 10.1 overs with Tim Seifert making 44 from 29 balls and Finn Allen 29 from 17. Tim Robinson was 18 not out and took two runs from the first ball of the 11th over to complete the win.

Draper knocks off Alcaraz to reach final

INDIAN WELLS: Jack Draper toppled two-time defending champion Carlos Alcaraz 6-1, 0-6, 6-4 to reach the BNP Paribas Open final. The 13th-seeded Draper will face 12th-seeded Holger Rune on Sunday. Rune beat fifth-seeded Daniil Medvedev 7-6, 6-4 in the first semifinal for his 150th tour-level victory. In the women's final Sunday, top-seeded Aryna Sabalenka will play 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva. They won semifinal matches Friday night in chilly conditions.

Lahiri finishes 25th at LIV Golf Singapore

SINGAPORE: Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri carded a two-under 69 in the third and final round to secure a modest Tied-25th finish at LIV Golf Singapore on Sunday. Lahiri, who shot rounds of 70 and 72 on the first two days, registered four birdies against two bogeys in the final round. At the top, Joaquin Niemann (65) cruised to a massive five-shot win over Brooks Koepka (66) for his second victory in the first four events of the season.

BOXING MESS

Prez and secy clash over women nat'ls

AGENCIES @ New Delhi

BOXING Federation of India (BFI) president Ajay Singh on Sunday asserted that the upcoming Women's National Boxing Championship will proceed as scheduled, just a few hours after the federation's secretary issued a notification stating that the tournament had been rescheduled. The national meet, which has been postponed multiple times since end of last year, is set to take place from March 20 to 27 in Greater Noida. The last date for entry by number was March 10 and name was March 15. However, BFI Secretary General Hemanta Kalita sent out an email on Sunday evening stating, "I would like to reiterate that the said Championship is being rescheduled due the request of various members and also considering the paucity of time. "A few states have only sent entry by number and some have sent names," Kalita wrote in a letter in possession of PTI.

Tokyo Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain, World Champion Nitu Ghanghas, and CWG medallist Jaismine Lamboria are among those who have submitted their names. Kalita also raised concerns regarding the sanctioning of travel and daily allowances for officials. "Please note that the BFI is undergoing Elections and that raises the question who would sign the certificates and officiate. Further more importantly, there cannot be any sanction or release of any TA/DA to officials as per the present situation." "A fresh date shall be announced soon after due process and consultation," he added. However, within a couple of hours, Singh issued another letter saying the competition is on as per scheduled. "As the President of BFI, I will not allow any further delays. I am making it clear that the Championship will be held as scheduled," Singh wrote.

Newcastle United end title drought

AGENCIES @ London

Newcastle United's Alexander Isak (R) celebrates after scoring team's second goal | AFP

NEWCASTLE United ended their 56-year trophy drought in stunning style as Dan Burn and Alexander Isak sealed a 2-1 win against Liverpool in the League Cup final on Sunday.

Eddie Howe's side made history at Wembley with a superb display that left the runaway Premier League leaders shell-shocked. Burn put Newcastle ahead late in the first half and Isak's 27th goal in all competitions doubled their lead after the interval.

Federico Chiesa got one back in the closing seconds, but Newcastle held on for their first major silverware since the 1969 Inter-Cities Fairs Cup.

That success in the predecessor to the Europa League is a relic of a bygone era, but this long-awaited triumph will be forever etched in the memories of the Newcastle fans who turned one half of Wembley into a roiling sea of black and white with their ecstatic celebrations. It was also Newcastle's first major domestic prize dating back 70 years to the 1955 FA Cup. Since the Magpies lifted the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup, 30 different English teams had won silverware, while Liverpool had clinched 38 major trophies in that time. But after losing the 2023 League Cup final against Manchester United, Howe's team returned to Wembley and set the record straight at last.

Newcastle had endured five relegations to the second tier since their last trophy, with club legends like Alan Shearer, Paul Gascoigne and Malcolm MacDonald failing to win silverware in their time on Tyneside. All that changed in 2021 when a Saudi-backed consortium completed a takeover from unpopular owner Mike Ashley and quickly hired Howe as their manager. The defeat was another painful blow for Liverpool just days after their Champions League last 16 exit against Paris Saint-Germain.

Arsenal edge Chelsea

Chelsea's challenge for a place in next season's Champions League faltered in a toothless 1-0 defeat at Arsenal on Sunday as Fulham beat Tottenham 2-0 in the Premier League. Mikel Merino scored the only goal of a disappointing contest as Arsenal pulled clear in second place and to within 12 points of runaway leaders Liverpool.

F1 SEASON-OPENER

Norris holds Verstappen to win Australian Grand Prix

AFP @ Melbourne

LANDO Norris kept his cool in a rain-hit and incident-packed season-opening Australian Grand Prix on Sunday to edge world champion Max Verstappen with Lewis Hamilton 10th on his Ferrari debut.

The pole-sitting Briton took the chequered flag by less than a second from the Dutchman, with Mercedes' George Russell third after a chaotic race in Melbourne that saw three drivers crash before the end of the first lap.

With the safety car repeatedly forced into action after a slew of accidents on the wet Albert Park circuit, Norris held on to clock a fifth win and second in a row after topping the podium at the final race of 2024 in Abu Dhabi.

RB rookie Isack Hadjar, Alpine's Jack Doohan and Williams' Carlos Sainz — last year's winner — all failed to finish the first lap on a track made treacherous by earlier torrential rain.

Norris came into the season as favourite for the 2025 drivers' title and cemented his status as the man to beat.

"It was amazing, a top race, especially with Max behind me. I was pushing, especially the last two laps — it was a little bit stressful, not going to lie," said Norris.

McLaren's British driver Lando Norris poses with trophy on Sunday | AFP

"Tricky conditions, but there are the ones that are enjoyable and we ended up on top so I'm happy."

Verstappen, who is aiming to become only the second driver to win five straight world titles after Michael Schumacher, was in the hunt early but an uncharacteristic error on lap 18 dented his chances until another safety car put him back in the frame. "It was a difficult race, but at the end it was fun," said the Dutch star.

"It was pushing, fighting for the win but I'm just happy to bring it home, score good points and this is a good start for us."

In the unpredictable conditions, with rain on-and-off, Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli was an eye-opening fourth on his debut while Williams' Alex Albon came an encouraging fifth.

Aston Martin's Lance Stroll was sixth ahead of Nico Hulkenberg in a Sauber.

Top six: 1. Lando Norris (GBR/McLaren), 2. Max Verstappen (NED/Red Bull), 3. George Russell (GBR/Mercedes), 4. Kimi Antonelli (ITA/Mercedes), 5. Alexander Albon (THA/Williams), 6. Lance Stroll (CAN/Aston Martin).

IIT DELHI: EXCELLENCE, INNOVATION, & CAMPUS CHRONICLES

FROM CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH AND TOP PLACEMENTS TO VIBRANT STUDENT LIFE AND ICONIC TRADITIONS — **SAUMYA SOLANKI** EXPLORES WHAT MAKES IIT DELHI A POWERHOUSE OF TALENT AND OPPORTUNITY

"We are poised to shape the global landscape of science and tech"

IIT Delhi has been redefining its role on the global stage. Director Prof Rangan Banerjee tells Saumyangi Yadav about the institute's immediate focus is on expanding research in critical areas such as AI, quantum computing and more

WITH its legacy of academic excellence, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has long been a frontrunner in shaping the technological landscape. In a conversation with *EdexLive*, IIT Delhi Director Prof Rangan Banerjee shares insights into the institute's priorities, and his vision of India in 2050.

● With events like the Green Tech Accelerator supporting 25 growth-stage start-ups, how does IIT Delhi plan to continue fostering sustainable technological innovations?
Sustainability is at the core of many of our initiatives. Beyond Green Tech, our research centres are working on hydrogen fuel technology, carbon capture solutions, and climate-resilient infrastructure.

● The Open House showcased the IIT's contributions to nation-building. How do you aim to inspire young minds towards science and technology?
Through live demonstrations, lab visits, and interactions with researchers, we aim to ignite curiosity and a passion for science and technology among young minds. Many of our visitors go on to pursue careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields.

● IIT Delhi established the School of Public Policy to address issues at the intersection of science, technology, and development. How does it aim to influence policy-making in India and beyond?
Science and technology do not exist in isolation; they must align with societal needs and governance structures. Our School of Public Policy focuses on evidence-based research to guide policymakers on pressing issues such as data privacy, Artificial Intelligence (AI) ethics, environmental policies, and health tech regulations.

● How has IIT Delhi's placement landscape evolved in recent years?
Our curriculum is constantly updated to keep pace with industry trends. Additionally, we are fostering entrepreneurship through incubation centres, encouraging students to innovate rather than just seek employment. Our placement records remain strong, with top recruiters from across the globe hiring our graduates.

● Where do you see India and IIT Delhi in 2050?
By 2050, we envision a self-reliant nation excelling in innovation, clean energy, and digital transformation. We will continue to play a crucial role in this journey by nurturing talent, conducting breakthrough research, and fostering global collaborations.

Events that shaped the institute

IIT Delhi's vibrant campus life is enriched by its flagship events that blend cultural exuberance with technological innovation.

Rendezvous: The cultural extravaganza

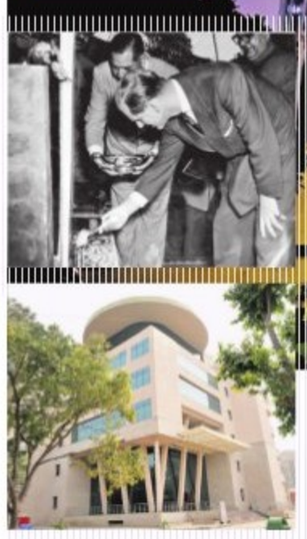
Rendezvous, popularly known as RDV, is IIT Delhi's annual cultural festival. Spanning four days, it attracts over 1,60,000 students from more than 1,200 colleges nationwide, making it North India's largest cultural fest. The festival showcases a plethora of events, including music performances, dance competitions, literary debates, and fashion shows, providing a platform for students to exhibit their talents and celebrate cultural diversity.

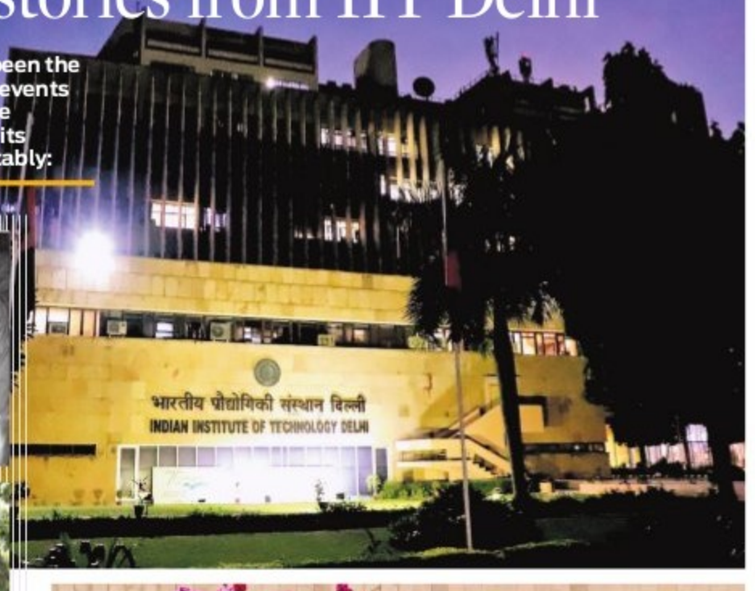
Tryst: The technological marvel

Tryst is IIT Delhi's annual science, technology, and management festival, recognised as North India's largest tech fest. Organised entirely by the student community, it features over 75 events, including workshops, competitions, guest lectures, and exhibitions. With participation exceeding 60,000 students, Tryst fosters innovation and technical prowess, offering attendees hands-on experience with cutting-edge technologies and insights from industry experts.

If the walls could talk: Campus stories from IIT Delhi

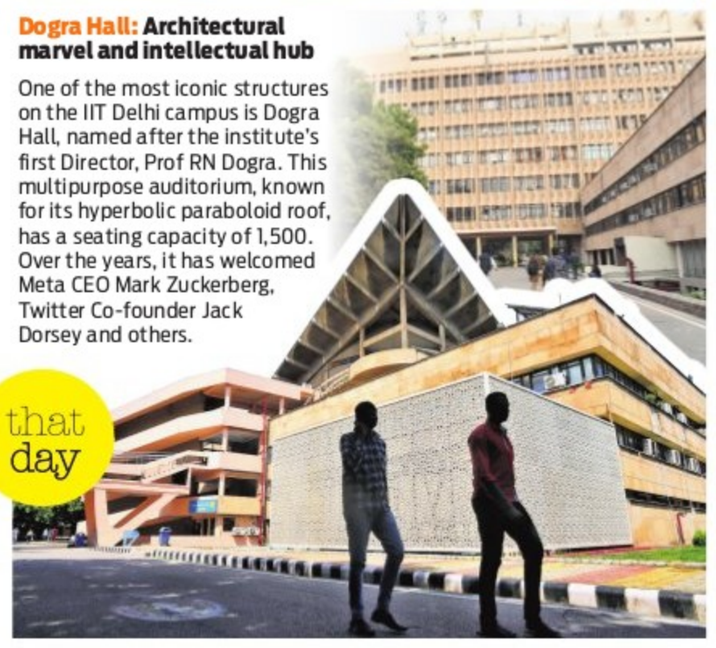
IIT Delhi's campus has been the backdrop for numerous events and landmarks that have significantly influenced its culture and identity. Notably:





Dogra Hall: Architectural marvel and intellectual hub

One of the most iconic structures on the IIT Delhi campus is Dogra Hall, named after the institute's first Director, Prof RN Dogra. This multipurpose auditorium, known for its hyperbolic paraboloid roof, has a seating capacity of 1,500. Over the years, it has welcomed Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg, Twitter Co-founder Jack Dorsey and others.



that day

Fee hike protests of 2022: When students took a stand

In the academic year 2022-2023, IIT Delhi increased the total academic fee for full-time MTech students by 100%, raising it to ₹53,100 from the previous ₹26,450. This substantial hike led to student protests.

Indradhanu: Pioneering LGBTQIA+ inclusion on campus

In 2013, students founded Indradhanu, an LGBTQIA+ collective. Notably, members of the group were among the petitioners in the historic 2018 Supreme Court case that led to decriminalisation of homosexuality in India.

ALUMNI ACCOUNTS

IIT DELHI ALUMNI REFLECT ON HOW THEIR TIME AT THE INSTITUTE SHAPED THEIR CAREERS, LEADERSHIP SKILLS, AND ENTREPRENEURIAL JOURNEYS

Jaswinder (Jassi) Chadha

BTech (Mechanical Engineering), Class of 1990, CEO, Axtria

At IIT Delhi, my senior project in CAD/CAM exposed me to cutting-edge technology, which later became instrumental in pursuing a master's and PhD in the US. Also, hostel life in Nilgiri built lifelong friendships, and my involvement in sports — particularly as captain of the IIT Delhi basketball team — taught me the value of teamwork and resilience. My mother was the first woman to earn a PhD in Mathematics from IIT Delhi, making us the first parent-child graduates of this prestigious institute. Years later, we had the honour of establishing one of the first endowed chairs at IIT Delhi, giving back to a place that has given us so much.

Vikram Gupta

BTech (Chemical Engineering), Class of 1993, Founder and Managing Partner, IvyCap Ventures

Holistic exposure at IIT Delhi has been instrumental in my career achievements, from launching IvyCap Ventures to establishing impactful initiatives like the IIT Delhi Endowment Fund. In 1992, I served as the Music Secretary at IIT Delhi, and I remember that I had no prior knowledge of playing any musical instrument. Having access to a keyboard and a guitar, I took the initiative to learn how to play them on my own, which taught me the value of self-reliance. This experience, along with hosting the Rendezvous and participating in music competitions, shaped my entrepreneurial mindset.

STUDENT'S VOICES

JAHNABI ROY, BTE… COMPUTER SCIEN… AND ENGINEERING

At IIT Delhi, we don't just master academics — we cultivate the art o… learning. The institute fosters innovation, research, and cultural excellence, shaping us into future global leaders. Student merit is recognised and rewarded, fuelling a culture of excellence and ambition.

MAYANK, BTECH ENERGY ENGINEERING

IIT Delhi offers immense opportunities beyond academics. From international competitions to sports, there's something for everyone. The supportive environment has helped me grow both personally and professionally, providing the space to explore my passions.

SHREYA GUPTA, BTECH MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTING

The best part of IIT Delhi is its environment — constantly surrounded by talented peers, pushing you to grow beyond your limits. The institute nurtures both academic and soft skills, with diverse student clubs offering a space to explore hobbies and build a strong foundation for the future.

A RANKING OF CAMPUS LIFE

1. **Best hangout spot:** Ex-hall and CCD
2. **Best canteen on the campus & best dish:** Naivedyam & best dish is rava masala dosa
3. **Favourite library spot:** Top floor corner
4. **One crazy tradition:** Birthday bumps
5. **Best time to be on campus:** Monsoon (fest season) and October (since it is calm after the fest concludes)
6. **Most competitive club/society:** Music club/Debsoc
6. **Most Insta-worthy spot on campus:** Biotech lawn
7. **Midnight hunger saviour:** Aravali night mess
8. **Unwritten rules:** Juniors demanding parties from seniors
9. **Most mysterious spot:** Area around Department of Management Science
10. **Top rumour:** Mystery about the haunted bridge near the new campus

Next level unlocked: Jobs

Placement trends

Here are the key placement numbers and facts when it comes to IIT Delhi's Placement Season 2024-25:

- **Total job offers (including PPOs):** 1,200+
- **Students placed:** ~1,150
- ***Top recruiters who gave offers in double-digits:***

American Express, Barclays, BCG, BlueStone Jewellery & Lifestyle, Deutsche India, Goldman Sachs, Google, Graviton Research Capital, Intel India, Meesho, Micron Technology, Microsoft, OLA, Oracle, PayU, Quadeye, Qualcomm, Robust Results, Shiprocket, Squarepoint Capital, Texas Instruments, Trident Group, Turing Global India

- **International offers:** 50+
- **Companies offering international placements:** 15+
- **Countries with international placements:** Japan, Netherlands, South Korea, Taiwan, UAE, United Kingdom, United States
- **Placement season duration:** Ongoing till the end of the next semester

Disclaimer: IIT Delhi, as a policy, has decided not to mention high-value packages in their placement-related press releases

HIDDEN GEMS ON THE CAMPUS

IIT Delhi is full of pleasant spots that offer students a chance to unwind, or simply enjoy the view. Here are a few lesser-known yet cherished spots:

New LHC top floors

The top floors of the New Lecture Hall Complex provide a calm environment

IIT JEE registration office & other block sections

The institute's various blocks are a maze of seemingly endless rooms, each holding its own stories.

Girnar 7th floor, behind the main washroom

Students can enjoy stunning sunset views, with Qutub Minar visible in the distance.

Dogra rooftop

Once a hidden treasure, this rooftop has now gained mass popularity

Research and Innovation Hub

IIT Delhi marked its 67th Foundation Day on January 27, 2025, by releasing the Research Impact Report, highlighting breakthroughs in AI, healthcare, energy, defence, and sustainability. The institute has incubated 147 start-ups and established 271 global research collaborations, reinforcing its role as a leader in innovation.

Healthcare & MedTech

- Probe-free RT-PCR test for COVID-19
- MRI-based knee joint evaluation
- Biosensors for pathogen detection
- Bioresorbable cardiovascular stents

Energy & sustainability

- Vanadium Redox Flow Battery for renewable energy storage
- Next-generation solar cells
- Shadowless solar photovoltaic tower
- Compressed biogas enrichment and bottling technology
- Sustainable calcined clay (LC3) cement

AI and robotics

- AI-based exoskeleton for stroke rehabilitation
- AI-driven traffic forecasting
- AI-based geospatial data processing for environmental monitoring
- I-Hub Foundation for Cobotics (IHFC) for human-robot interaction

Quantum and advanced communications

- Fibre-based quantum secure communications
- Advanced THz detector and source device technologies for 6G & beyond

Automotive & transportation

- Powertrain for long-range electric vehicles
- Crash analysis and autonomous driving
- Simulation software for bullet trains
- Flex-fuel vehicle technology

Defense & security

- Body armour for Indian armed forces
- Lightweight armour for AK-47 & sniper rifle protection

Social impact and assistive technologies

- Clean cooking devices for rural communities
- AI-based cost-effective point-of-care device for cancer screening
- Assistive technologies for visually-impaired individuals
- Tactile diagrams for visually impaired learners

Start-ups & collaborations :
- 147 start-ups incubated in agritech, AI/ML, cybersecurity, biotech, & e-mobility
- 271 international research collaborations
- IIT Delhi Abu Dhabi campus launched with joint PhD programmes

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

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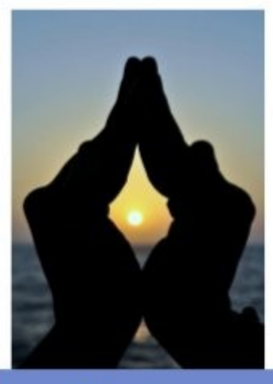


DAY'S DIARY

New discovery

In 1905, Albert Einstein finished his paper on the quantum theory of light, laying the foundation for modern physics and quantum mechanics

START OF THE STUDY

At the start of his scientific work, Einstein realised the inadequacies of Newtonian mechanics. He dealt with classical problems of statistical mechanics and quantum theory

PROGRESS

In 1905, he wrote four seminal articles in which he explained Brownian motion, the photoelectric effect, and developed special relativity

AFTER THE THEORY

Einstein moved to Berlin to become the director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Physical Institute and a professor at the University of Berlin in 1914

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

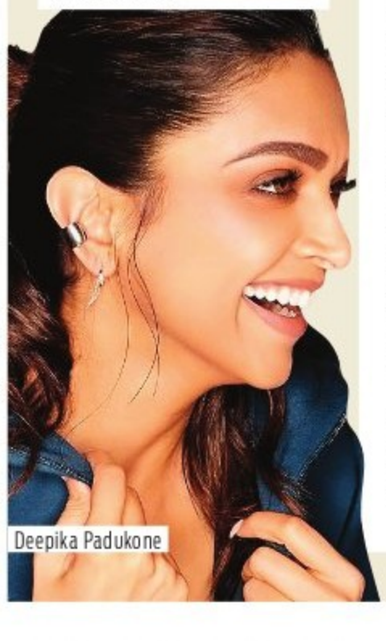
Sonam Kapoor

Rashmika Mandanna

WEAR Cuffs!

Once the favourite of Marilyn Monroe and Egyptian queens alike, ear cuffs are back in the jewellery trends, making waves as a statement piece

Marilyn Monroe



Deepika Padukone

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

RANGING from subtle gold or silver hoops placed around your helix, to elaborate snakes or peacocks curled to the shape of your ear, and those that stick out like an elf's ears – the options are diverse when it comes to ear cuffs. Spotted on fashion-forward Bengalureans of all ages, particularly Gen Z and millennials, these trendy jewellery pieces make a statement, according to image consultant, Bia Sandhu. "It's been in vogue for about a year now with women who want to make a style statement. People are on the lookout for them because it looks funky, giving you that unique sense of style. Depending on the kind you wear, it's not uncomfortable either," she says.

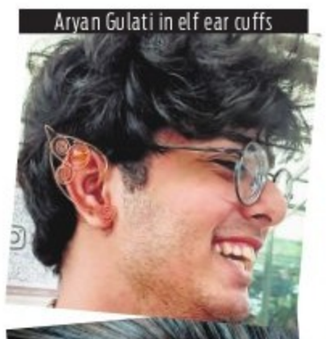
In the last few years, many costume jewellery makers on online platforms, to local hand-made jewellery businesses, high-end designers and brands like Tarun Tahiliani, Tanishq and Mellora have introduced ear cuffs into their collection. Divya Batra, the founder of Quirksmith, a popular jewellery brand that sells handcrafted silver jewellery, notes the difference in the Indian market, saying, "A few years ago, there were no earcuffs that could be worn, say, to the airport, or on a daily basis. Now, you see that everywhere and all sorts of ear cuffs – big, small, gold-plated, traditional-inspired, and modern ones."

With a long history of different cultures creating ear accessories resembling ear cuffs, this trend didn't just crop up out of nowhere. The 'Kaffa' has been found in British burial sites dating back to 4,300 BC, ancient Greek aristocrats have been depicted wearing cuffs, along with carvings in Indian temples. "It is said that Cleopatra used to love jewellery and wear a lot of it – ear cuffs were part of her collection as well," Sandhu shares. With celebrities like Ananya Panday, Margot Robbie, Hailey Bieber, and Cynthia Erivo sporting ear cuffs on red carpets, they may be drawing from not just this legacy, but a filmy one too. "Everything comes back in fashion every 20-30 years. In movies from the '50s, actors like Marilyn Monroe were sporting them," says Sandhu.

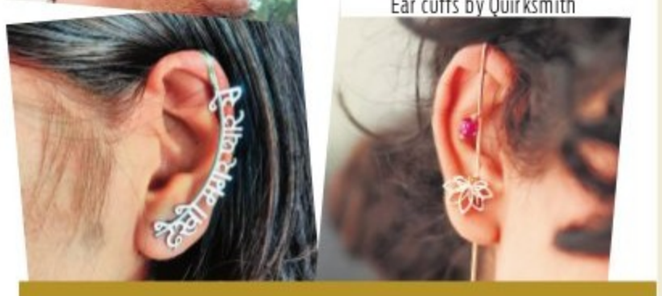
The trend hasn't been limited to women either, with individuals including non-binary entrepreneur, Aryan Gulati, using it to experiment with feminine styles, saying, "I started wearing them a lot, very minimal ones, while going out in college and to work. But over time, as I got comfortable with my own identity, I started to experiment with more flamboyant pieces like an elf ear-shaped ear cuff which I was drawn to because of reading a lot of fantasy literature."

People also seem to be drawn to the convenience of ear cuffs, which often do not need piercings to wear. "I came across ear cuffs while watching K-Pop. Some stars don't pierce their ears but wear accessories that look so real. Even though pierced ears are popular and I wanted multiple piercings, I'm afraid because I have infection issues. Ear cuffs are a way to still get that look," says Alina Ajmal, a 22-year-old content strategist.

Aryan Gulati in elf ear cuffs



Ear cuffs by Quirksmith



KEY TIP FOR BEGINNERS

Avoid symmetry. "I always recommend not to wear ear cuffs as a pair. First, because it's more comfortable – if you need to take a call, you need an ear to be free. Second, we expect earrings to be worn on both ears, so when you wear an ear cuff on just one side, it creates asymmetry and makes a very unexpected style statement which is unknowingly more attractive to our minds," says Divya Batra, founder of Quirksmith, a popular jewellery brand

This club gathers every week to celebrate a shared passion for watches and the craft of watchmaking

Time Saver

ANUBHAB ROY

(From left to right) Deveer Bellur, Akshay Kulkarni, and Kiran Munipalle

PICS: NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Pre-World War I watches

METRO cities suffer from a reputation of subjecting their inhabitants to unrelenting speeds of living. As slow-living and 'keeping', not 'saving', time, have started to be recognised as priorities, a few in Bengaluru have taken to it quite literally, keeping a lost art alive in the bustling city.

Horology, if one has not encountered it before, is a word that sounds like a combination of 'horoscope' and 'astrology'. This 'art of making instruments for indicating time', according to Merriam-Webster, is precisely what has led a group of watch collectors and enthusiasts to form the Bengaluru Vintage Watch Collectors Club. Meeting every Saturday for breakfast, founder Kiran Munipalle and the group gather to talk about watches they've collected, watches they are eyeing or simply to catch up with one another. The group, now emulated by similar initiatives across India, is the only existing watch-club in Bengaluru that offers restoration services as well.

For most people in the club, the beginning of their fascination with watches was deeply personal. As Munipalle states, "Around the early nineties, I had received about three Swiss watches from my father; back then, I didn't show too much of an interest and had actually put them in a locker and forgotten about them. Years later, the watches caught my attention, and I thought 'Why don't I explore this as one of my passions?' That triggered my interest in horology." Deveer Bellur, who acts as a co-admin of the club and is a banker, shares a similar story. "The first mechanical watch I had was gifted by my mom, which she used to wear back when she was in college. That probably ignited my passion back in my school days, but later, it faded. Then, around the pandemic, one of my close friends gifted me a Fossil watch; and that was the reignition," he mentions.

Cumulatively, the club boasts a collection of over 15,000 watches across time-periods, spaces of origin, themes, and related categories; Munipalle's ginormous collection accounts for most of it, with his foraging across various 'themes', including watches from before World War I, a period when wristwatches begun to be considered a staple for men. Interestingly, it is not just watch collectors that are welcome to the club, but anyone who is interested in horology. Akshay Kulkarni, an advertising filmmaker and consultant, is one such active member whose interest and knowledge about watches alone make him an integral part of the community. "I am very enthusiastic and I personally don't believe in owning things. So it becomes more like a centre for learning. I would say this club is a university or a museum," he says.

It is archiving that drives the community of the club, for all of them concur that it is heavily unlikely that the pendulum will shift in horology's favour. Munipalle rues the fact that newer generations are averse to taking up watchmaking as a hobby or vocation because it is too complicated and hard to sustain financially. In hopes of bringing attention, Chandrashekhar, a member of the club, offers hosting events as a possible option, of which the club has done quite a few. Apart from their personal archival projects, the entire team is also open to preserving timepieces of personal value from those who are willing to approach the club. "We are more than welcome to accept watches of personal value, like heirlooms. We ensure good custody of them," Munipalle asserts.

Contact: 98003 83200

'ALL WRITERS ARE SEARCHING FOR SOME KIND OF TRUTH'

This week in *CE*, watch out for a candid interview with actor, director and screenwriter Saurabh Shukla, who will be in the city for a peformance of his play, *Barff*

A SNACK-Y STUDY BREAK

PG 3

CITY READ

New app to streamline college application process

A recently-launched app, Appli, aims to simplify the college application process for students by providing a single platform to access a vast database of verified colleges with detailed information on courses, faculty, admission criteria, and campus facilities; filter colleges based on interests, eligibility, and future career plans; and then, submit multiple applications with a few clicks, instead of filling out separate forms for each institution. Alongside this, Appli Lens, a YouTube series, provides exclusive campus tour videos for different colleges and Digilocker integration allows for seamless uploading essential documents. Built with guidance from Vice-Chancellors and education experts, Bengaluru's leading institutions, along with multiple colleges other major cities, are in the final stages of onboarding, according to Founder and CEO Nanjunda Prasad

Art festival to honour saint-poet on March 21

The 49th edition of the Samanvay Arts Festival, presented by Rajarajeshwari Kala Niketan in association with the Academy of Music, will be hosting an artistic presentation titled 'Bhakti Shakti – The Power of Devotion' on March 21 from 5.45pm onwards at Chowdaiah Memorial Hall, Malleswaram, to commemorate the 525th birth centenary of saint-poet Meera Bai. Curated by Veena Murthy Vijay, the event is a confluence of dance, music, and storytelling which captures the saint-poete's spiritual journey and devotion to Lord Krishna through performances by some of India's most esteemed classical dancers and musicians including Madhu Nataraj, Shama Krishna, J Manu, Rupesh KC and Sneha Bhagwat.

Performing arts beyond centuries

AAKANSHA MUNSHI

The Department of Performing Arts and Cultural Studies at Jain (Deemed-to-be) University, JP Nagar, will be hosting the second edition of Parishodhana, a national conference, on March 21 and 22 in hybrid mode with their main focus being composers and choreographers from the 19th and the 20th century.

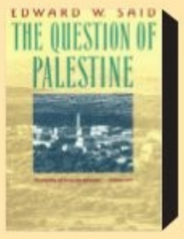
The conference will explore the rich tapestry of Indian music and dance through diverse influences that have shaped it by examining the lives, works, and philosophies of notable composers and choreographers from classic to contemporary genres. The keynote speaker will be musicologist TS Sathyavathi.

The attempt is to merge the areas of research with performing arts through this conference which will be held every alternate year, according to Head of the Department of Performing Arts and Cultural Studies, Vidya Rao. She explains, "There is no dearth of performances for the musicians and dancers. But when it comes to academic research in the performing arts, there is a requirement where we need to showcase the research trends and topics which have been covered."

Given the relatively recent introduction of a research focus on the performing arts, students often find it difficult to find a sense of relation between the two fields. Rao shares, "Students come here to learn more about dance. When they were introduced to the theoretical parts, they were shocked to know the amount of information out there. They were a little hesitant about it, but when they begin learning, they gain authentic information from the texts that come from the 10th, 12th, or 16th centuries."

Stressing the importance of an academic foundation in the performing arts, she adds, "Performing arts can be a very attractive field. But, just practising the art is not enough. Knowing what our ancestors have done and why it is so has to be learnt from the theoretical part."

BOOK NOOK



The Question of Palestine
By Edward W Said

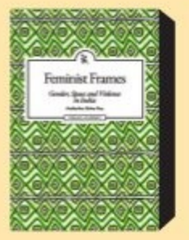
In this provocative book, Edward W Said writes about the fatal collision between two people in the Middle East and its consequences in the lives of both the occupier and the occupied.

The Anti-Social Family
By Michèle Barrett and Mary McIntosh

The book dissects the network of household, kinship and sexual relations that constitute a family in capitalist societies. It explores the personal and social needs that the family promises but often denies, and proposes moral and political practices.

Sir Lewis
By Michael E Sawyer

This definitive biography of the greatest Formula One driver of all time, Lewis Hamilton, follows his journey from a remote-controlled car hobbyist to seven-time world champion, and a motorsports icon.



Feminist Frames: Gender, Space and Violence in India
By Mallarika Sinha Roy

This book explores South Asian feminist politics through shared historical memories and spaces. It examines borderlands, socialist visions of internationalism, travel cultures, theatre history, and geopolitical formations.

A CLASSICAL LEGACY

A Kuchipudi performance by Shambhavi Dance Ensemble during their ninth edition of Nayika at Seva Sadan, Malleswaram | ALLEN EGENUSE J

QUICKFIX

APPLE HALWA

INGREDIENTS

- **Apple:** 2 cups, peeled and grated
- **Brown sugar:** 1 cup
- **Cashew, almond, pista, and raisin:** a handful
- **Grated coconut:** 1 cup
- **Elaichi powder:** a pinch
- **Ghee:** 2 tbsp

METHOD

- In a pan, add ghee and sauté all dry fruits. Remove and keep aside.
- In the same pan, sauté the apple for three minutes until the water is absorbed. Then add grated coconut and cook for two minutes.
- Add brown sugar to the mixture. Stir continuously for two minutes to avoid lumps.
- Once it thickens, add elaichi powder and dry fruits.
- Apple halwa is ready. It goes well with ice cream.

Contributed by **Archana Kiran,** Secunderabad

ASK AN XPERT

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

My neutered 7-year-old female dog is showing attraction for a male dog in the next lane. Is this possible given that she is neutered or should I keep a watch for signs of trouble?

Although your dog is neutered, she may still show interest in other dogs due to instinctual or social behaviours that can persist after neutering. While neutering reduces mating-related behaviours, it does not completely eliminate all attraction or curiosity. Her interest in the male dog could be due to factors such as playfulness, curiosity, or dominance. It is important to monitor her interactions to ensure there is no aggression or distress. If her behaviour changes or becomes concerning, it is advisable to consult your veterinarian for further advice.

FITBIT

ADHO MUKHA SVANASANA VARIATION – FEET IN AIR

(DOWNWARD-FACING DOG POSE VARIATION – FEET IN AIR) HANDS BEHIND BACK INTERLOCKED)

This is an intermediate-level arm-balancing pose. It is a variation of the base pose, Downward-Facing Dog Pose Aerial. The difference between the base pose and this variation is that in the base pose, the legs are placed on the ground or mat, whereas in this variation, the legs are lifted upwards. Lifting the feet off the ground with arm support and additional hammock support makes it easier for practitioners. Variations of the Hammock Pose require tremendous core and arm strength.

STEPS

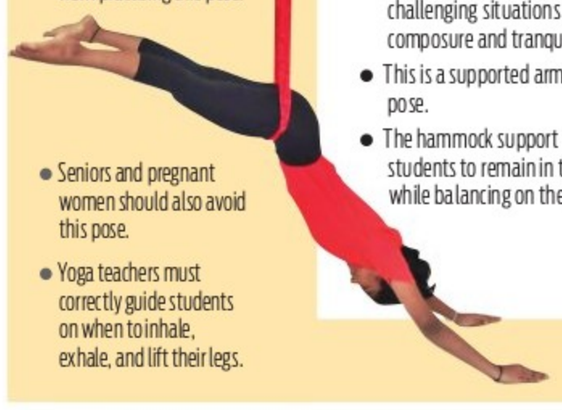
- Start by spreading a yoga mat on the floor for extra support. Stand behind the hammock and adjust it so that it reaches your hip joint.
- Stand in Tadasana (Mountain Pose) with the hammock in front for three to four breaths. Place the middle part of the hammock on your hip joint. Lift your arms with an inhale and bend forward with an exhale.
- Make any necessary adjustments to get into Downward-Facing Dog Pose Aerial. Take two to three deep breaths here.
- Engage your core and press your palms firmly on the mat. Lift your left leg with an inhale, then slowly exhale. Again, inhale and slowly lift your right leg. If you feel confident, lift both legs with an inhale.
- Hold this position for three to four breaths or as long as you can. To release the pose, take a deep breath and gently bring your legs down with an exhale, one after the other.
- Once again, inhale and return to Tadasana. Repeat the pose and hold it for a longer duration if possible.
- Relax in Three-Part Breath Mountain Pose for six to eight breaths.

BENEFITS

- Stretches and strengthens the muscles of the upper body.
- Provides a good stretch for the arms, shoulders, core, and back muscles.
- Stretches the front part of the lower body, including the quadriceps and shin muscles.
- Helps build stamina and strength, preparing practitioners for advanced-level arm balance poses.
- Placing the legs on and off the floor with inhalation and exhalation increases lower body flexibility.
- Regular practice improves hip mobility, making it easier to practise poses like Bakasana (Crow Pose), Handstand Pose, and their variations.
- As an inversion pose, it encourages blood flow towards the brain and heart.
- Controlled breathing allows students to balance and hold the pose for longer.
- Requires core and arm strength, which can be developed through regular practice.
- Practising arm balance inversion poses may offer multiple benefits.
- Stimulates various organs and systems, such as the digestive, respiratory, circulatory, and nervous systems.
- Supports improved lung capacity and digestion.
- Regular practice promotes emotional stability and mental balance.
- Helps practitioners handle challenging situations with composure and tranquillity.
- This is a supported arm balance pose.
- The hammock support allows students to remain in the air while balancing on their arms.

LIMITATIONS

- People with injuries in the wrists, arms, shoulders, spine, hips, or knees should avoid this pose.
- Those with conditions such as carpal tunnel syndrome, tennis elbow, vertigo, migraine, epilepsy, high blood pressure, or heart conditions should refrain from practising this pose.
- Seniors and pregnant women should also avoid this pose.
- Yoga teachers must correctly guide students on when to inhale, exhale, and lift their legs.



By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Fusion of Flavours

This week, indulge in an exclusive showcase of Murshidabad's royal cuisine, led by Chef Rehman Mujeebur who offers to bring to the table a rich selection of dishes from one of India's most historic culinary traditions, with a confluence of Mughal, Persian, Afghan, and Bengali culinary influences.

WHEN: March 19-23
WHERE: Shangri-La Bengaluru, Vasanth Nagar
CALL: 8045126100

Reclaim Your Calm

Has your busy schedule left you feeling out of touch with yourself? Experience freedom from the challenges of modern influences as you step into the world of spirituality in an event led by Swami Niranjanananda Saraswati where you can benefit from his profound knowledge and more.

WHEN: March 21-23, 6.30am
WHERE: Shalini Grounds, Jayanagar
CALL: 96115 85054

Play Date

Looking to spend some quality time with your kids? Attend this event curated for children aged seven and below which promises a journey of learning moments while enjoying fun play activities with a ball pool, trampoline, and more!

WHEN: March 17, 11am
WHERE: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Just for Laughs

Begin your week with a refreshing array of jokes and laughter at this live comedy show which promises to bring you the funniest comedians under one roof. The venue offers food and beverages to complete your evening!

WHEN: March 17, 9pm
WHERE: Bistro Claytopia, Koramangala
CALL: 95387 06203

Tales on Stage

Attend the stage production of *Beral Ge Koral* (A throat for a finger), a dance presentation of Ekalavya's story based on the poetic work by national poet laureate Kuvempu. Enjoy the magic of theatre as it blends Kannada language and culture, promising an authentic experience.

WHEN: March 18, 7.30pm
WHERE: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
DETAILS: rangashankara.org

Musical Mondays

Experience the productions of Australian DJ Timmy Trumpet Live at a concert featuring chart-topping hits like *Freaks - Radio Edit*, *Like A G6 (with Naeleck)* and *All the Things She Said*. Grab your tickets for an event that promises the ultimate musical experience!

WHEN: March 17, 7pm
WHERE: M.Chinnaswamy Stadium, Cubbon Road
DETAILS: allevents.in

Literally Speaking

Immerse yourself in the world of poetry at this event featuring poet and writer **Madhumitha Varadaraj**. With an entry fee of ₹300 (full cover), experience an evening that blends words and emotions under the same roof.

WHEN: March 18, 7.30pm
WHERE: Urban Solace, Ulsoor
CALL: 98450 13055

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

ARTCORNER

ART IN GEOMETRY

Neerja Chandna Peters, a self-taught visual artist, portrays spiritual symbolism with geometrical shapes in acrylic on canvas

STRAWBERRY JAM & BUTTER BUN

INGREDIENTS

- **Chopped strawberries:** 1½ cups
- **Sugar:** ½ cup
- **Lemon juice:** 1-2 tsp
- **Butter:** 1 tbsp ● **Bun:** 1
- **Baking soda:** 1 tsp

METHOD

- Soak the strawberries in warm water and baking soda for about 20 minutes
- Chop them up, mix with the lemon juice and sugar. Use more or less sugar depending on preference
- Cook on low heat till the desired consistency is reached, continue as necessary for a thicker, jelly-like texture, and stir to make sure nothing burns
- Allow it to cool and transfer into a container
- Spread butter and the jam on a bun and enjoy

Contributed by **Balaji Visvanathan**, 1st year BE, Manipal Institute of Technology

CORN SALAD

INGREDIENTS

- **American sweet corn, grated carrot, cucumber, pomegranate seeds:** 1 cup each
- **Slit green chillies:** 5
- **Lemon:** ¼
- **Coriander:** 1 tbsp
- **Salt:** to taste

METHOD

- Mix the sweet corn, carrot, cucumber, pomegranate seeds, green chillies and coriander in a bowl
- Squeeze the lemon, add salt to taste and mix well
- Serve in a bowl

Contributed by **Sanjana R**, Class 10, JSS Public School – HSR layout

With board examinees caught up in stress, Bengaluru students share quick and easy recipes they make to lift their spirits

A SNACK-Y STUDY BREAK

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

IT'S that time of year, when kids in the 10th or 12th class buckle up to study hard and get last-minute revisions and practice tests done before facing one of the first public exams of their lives. Amidst all the studying and stressing, the power of a yummy snack to bring a moment of joy to a study break should not be underestimated. Whether you're a parent who wants to nudge your kid towards a healthy alternative to chips and soda, or a student who wants to whip something up while burning the midnight oil, these tried and tested recipes by Bengaluru's students are bound to improve your mood and keep you going.

EGG SANDWICH

INGREDIENTS

- **Egg:** 1
- **Tomatoes and onions:** 3-4 slices
- **Lettuce leaves:** 2
- **Bread:** 2 slices
- **Cheese:** 1 slice
- **Mayonnaise:** 1 to 1½ tbsp

METHOD

- Crack an egg onto a hot pan and make a simple omelette or a sunny side up; add salt to your liking
- Toast your bread slices until golden in colour
- Smear mayonnaise on both bread slices
- Stack your sliced onions and tomatoes onto one of the bread slices and gently place the omelette on top
- Add the cheese slice onto the egg and finish it off with some lettuce
- Place the final slice of bread on top to finish building your egg sandwich

Contributed by **Samarth Puranik,** First PU, Vidya Mandir PU College

CINNAMON BREAD & STRAWBERRIES

INGREDIENTS

- **Bread:** 2 slices
- **Cinnamon powder:** ¼ tsp
- **Butter:** 1 tbsp
- **Sugar:** 1 tsp
- **Strawberries:** 3-4 per slice of bread

METHOD

- Take the butter, sugar and cinnamon powder in a bowl and mix well
- Spread the mixture on both sides of the bread and toast on a pan
- Slice the strawberries thinly and add them as toppings on the bread

Contributed by **Nanda Dheeraj,** Class 12, The Oxford Senior Secondary School

ROAST POTATOES

INGREDIENTS

- **Potatoes:** 3-4
- **Baking Soda:** 2 tbsp
- **Olive Oil:** 2-3 tbsp
- **Salt and pepper:** 1 tsp
- **Dried herbs/ oregano powder:** 2-3 tsp
- **Crushed garlic:** 3-4 cloves

METHOD

- Peel 3-4 potatoes, chop them into medium-sized pieces and boil them for 8-10 mins; add baking soda to your boiling water for extra crunch
- While the potatoes boil prepare a mixture of olive oil, salt, pepper, dried herbs/oregano powder, and crushed garlic
- Mix the boiled potatoes with the mixture, place on a baking tray, and bake at 200°C for 15-20 minutes; turn each piece over before baking again for 20 minutes
- Let them cool and serve with sauce of your choice

Contributed by **Chandana Nagaraju,** Class 12, National Public School HSR

NUGGETS

Research institute brings experiential learning to schools

Prayoga Institute of Education Research, Kanakapura Road, in collaboration with Merck, a science and technology company, is set to bring Kriya – a research initiative – to 45 government schools across 35 educational districts in Karnataka. The initiative will offer comprehensive lab stations stocked with materials aligned with the requirements of the academic syllabi to provide an immersive learning experience and to foster hands-on science learning for students in grades 6-10, particularly in communities with limited access to such educational experiences. Through a multi-year partnership model, Kriya aims to transform schools into experiential learning centres, empower teachers, and increase student interest in science. Additionally, teachers will undergo specialised training to implement research-based instructional approaches, transforming their classrooms into dynamic, inquiry-based learning environments.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) SAKSHI SRIVASTAVA**, residing at SNCO's Mess, Gagan Vihar Camp, C/o. Institute of Aerospace Medicne, Air Force, Vimanapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560017, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SAKSHI SRIVASTAVA** to **(NEW NAME) SREEYANSHI SRIVASTAVA** vide affidavit dated 06.03.2025 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VINAYAK SACHIDANAND SHETTY**, R/o No.349, 15th Main, 1st Block, 3rd Stage, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru 560079 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **VINAYAKA SHETTY** and **VINAYAK S SHETTY** to **VINAYAK SACHIDANAND SHETTY**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **VINAYAK SACHIDANAND SHETTY** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 14th March 2025, sworn before Notary **RATNA .N** at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ARPIT SHINEY GURIA,** aged about 25 years, R/at Bina Nivas, 2nd Floor, 2nd gate, 2nd Cross Road, Lottegollahalli, RMV 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560 094 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ARPIT SHINEY GURIA J** to **ARPIT SHINEY GURIA,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **ARPIT SHINEY GURIA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 13-03-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **JALANDHARA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAJASHREE SANKAPAL,** D/o Ashok Sankapal, age 33 years, R/at No. G06, A4 Block, United Meadows Apartment, Force Avenue Road, Brookfield, Kundanahalli, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru-560 037 do hereby declare that my father's correct name is **ASHOK SANKAPAL,** but in all my marks card my father name is entered as **ANNAPPA KAMATE** instead of **ASHOK SANKAPAL,** henceforth my father name shall be known and called as **ASHOK SANKAPAL** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 15-3-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **B. CHITRA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SANTOSH JAHAGIRDAR, S/o. Keshavacharya Jahagirdar, resident of No. B901, Century Central Apartments, Mango Garden Bikasipura, Metro Cash & Carry Store, Kanakapura Road, Konanakunte, Bengaluru-560062 Karnataka India, have changed myname from **SANTOSH JAHAGIRDAR** to **SANTOSH KESHAVACHARYA JAHAGIRDAR,** vide affidavit dated 13-03-2025 sworn before notary H.G. Padmanabha Rao, Reg. No.12464(GOI) Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NAYEEM PASHA**, S/o. MOHAMMED KHALEEL and Residing at No. 28/1, Tippu Circle, Bengaluru Road, Badamakan, Mysuru - 570007, Karnataka, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MOHAMMED NAYEEM PASHA** to **NAYEEM PASHA** vide affidavit dated 15.03.2025 sworn to before M. Radhamma, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NAGAVENI R, resident of No.99, Raghavendra Industrial Layout, Thigalara Palya Main Road, Bangalore 560058, have changed my name to NAYANA GOWDA vide affidavit dated: 06.03.2025 before advocate and notary Onkarappa N.R. Bengaluru.**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SWATHI PRASAD,** W/o Santhosh Prasad, aged about 36 years, Resident at No.627, Ground Floor, 9th Block, Bandemaramma Temple, Nagarbhavi 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560 072. Hereby declare that, I have changed my name from **'SWATHI K J'** to **"SWATHI PRASAD",** vide Affidavit dated 09.01.2025, Sworn before Advocate and Notary H.R. Karunakara, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SYED NADEEM AND AYESHA TARANNUM,** residing at No.120, S.C. Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560020 have changed my daughter's name from **SYEDA ZARA** (old name) to **SYEDA ZAINAB,** (new name) vide affidavit dated: 14-03-2025 before Notary, Sivakumara. M.N Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ARVIND** S/o **Pillappa.L** R/at No.GF-03, V2 Vandana Apartment, Ravi Hill View Layout, Ittamadu, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore- 560085, have changed my name to **ARVIND.P** vide affidavit dated: 15/3/2025 Before Notary **H.G. Padmanabha Rao** Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHANTHA MURAL** W/o Somashekar Mural, D/o Amrutappa A, aged about 39 years, R/at MIG 674, 17th Cross, Surya City Phase -1, Chandapura, Bengaluru-560 099 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SHANTAVVA MADAR** to **SHANTHA MURAL**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **SHANTHA MURAL** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 11-03-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **G. DAYANANDA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUBIN CHERIAN,** R/o Flat No. 121, Brigade Bricklane, SY95 97, Kogilu Main Road, Jakkur, Bangalore-560 064 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SUBIN VARKEY CHERIAN** to **SUBIN CHERIAN,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SUBIN CHERIAN** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 8-3-3025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **S. ESWARA REDDY** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SYED HAROON**, S/o. Late. Syed Abbas, Aged about 70 years, Residing at No. 36, RV Road, Opposite to Vijaya College, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SYED HAROON** to **SYED ABBAS HAROON** vide affidavit dated 15.03.2025 sworn to before T.C. Thimmaraja, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ASHA NARAYANASWAMY**, W/o. Dhanajaya Akkappa and Residing at No. 46, Asha Nilaya, 4th Cross, CV Raman Nagar Post, S.G. Palya, Bangalore - 560 093, Karnataka, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ASHA NAGARAJ** to **ASHA NARAYANASWAMY** vide affidavit dated 15.03.2025 sworn to before M. Radhamma, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SURYA SATHVIK SRINIVASA, S/o. SRINIVASA MANJUNATH Residing At 123/212, Narayanappa Building Near Krishna Temple Road D B Sandra V R Pura Bangalore 560097, have changed my name from SURYA SATHVIK S to SURYA SATHVIK SRINIVASA vide affidavit dated: 14.03.2025 before advocate and notary Smt. A. Manjula, Bengaluru.**

AFFIDAVIT
I, **SHRIKANTHA BHAT,** S/o S Ramesh Bhat, aged about 36 years, R/at No.4-103, Sagri Shivalli, Opp. S R S, Udupi, Kunjibettu, Udupi, Karnataka-576 102, presently at Bengaluru. I State that, my name in educational records was mentioned as **'SHRIKANTHA'** or **'SHRIKANTHA S'** & my name is mentioned as only **'SHRIKANTHA'** in my Passport, instead of **"SHRIKANTHA BHAT".** Hereby declare that, **'SHRIKANTHA', 'SHRIKANTHA S'** & **"SHRIKANTHA BHAT"** names are one & the same and it refers to me only, vide Affidavit dated 27.02.2025, Sworn before Advocate and Notary Devaraja E, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ATEYA PARVEEN,** W/o. Mohammed Zahir Shah. residing at No.4, 5th Main Road, Hanumanthappa Layout, Sultanpalya,Bangalore-560032, changed my name from **ATIYA PARVEEN SHAH ZAHIR** (old name) to **ATEYA PARVEEN,** (new name) vide affidavit dated: 14-03-2025 before Notary, Sivakumara. M.N. Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAJASHEKHARA** S/o **Yellappa,** R/at No.20, 2nd Cross, Saravathi Colony, Mavinakere, Shimoga- 577245 have changed my name to **RAJASHEKAR.Y** vide affidavit dated: 15/3/2025 Before Notary **H.G. Padmanabha Rao** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MR. BALAJI,** aged about 22 years, S/o Mukunda, R/at No. 59, 4th Cross, Kuvempu Layout, Near Sangeetha Mobiles, Hebbal, Kempapura, H A Farm, Bangalore-560 024 do hereby declare that I have changed my father's name from **VENKATARAJU** to **MUKUNDA**, henceforth my father name shall be known and called as **MUKUNDA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 14-03-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **L.B. ANASUYAMMA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **QURESH DAWOOD RANGWALA,** Major, presently R/at # 1443/A, 39th 'E' Cross, 18th Main, 4 'T' Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560 041 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **QURESH DAWOOD BHAI MERCHANT** to **QURESH DAWOOD RANGWALA,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **QURESH DAWOOD RANGWALA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 15th March 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **M. RAJENDRA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PARAMITA HALDER**, Aged about 40 years, D/o. Chandi Charan Bera, Residing at # 50, B-107, Sai Palace Apartment, 1st Main Road, Jagruthi Colony, Near Brigade Millenium Signal, J.P. Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore - 560 078, Karnataka State, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **PARAMITA HALDER** to **PARAMITA BERA** vide affidavit dated 15.03.2025 sworn to before Rukhiabi, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHUBHA NAYAK**, W/o. Viswanatha Nayak and Residing at Shri Hari Nivasa, Koppalla Kaduhole Marne, Udupi - 574 108, Karnataka, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SHUBHA** to **SHUBHA NAYAK** vide affidavit dated 15.03.2025 sworn to before M. Radhamma, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BHUPALAM SAI JATHIN, S/o Chandrasekhar Bhupalam, aged about 18 years, residing at Tower 21, Flat 303, L&T Rain Tree Blouverd, Byatarayanapura, Hebbal, Bengaluru -560092, have changed my name from BHUPALAM JATHIN to BHUPALAM SAI JATHIN vide affidavit dated: 15.03.2025 sworn before advocate and notary C.N Chandrashekar, Bengaluru.**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, the undersigned **ROOPASHREE KAKWE SHANKARA (new Name)** previously called **ROOPASHREE KAKWE SHANKARA RAO (old name),** W/o Venkatraja K, Aged about 37 years, and residing at Flat No. 143, Lotus Block, Mahaveer Lakes Apartment, Dr. Vishnuvardhan Road, Kengeri, Bangalore-560060.
I Changed my name **ROOPASHREE KAKWE SHANKARA (New name)** in place of **ROOPASHREE KAKWE SHANKARA RAO** (old Name), hereafter be called, knew and distinguished not by my former name/surname, but assumed name/surname of **ROOPASHREE KAKWE SHANKARA (New name),** hereafter in all records deeds and writings and in all proceedings, dealings and transactions, private as well as upon all occasions whatsoever use and sign the name of **ROOPASHREE KAKWE SHANKARA.** Sworn before Advocate & Notary **Ravi** B.A.LLB, Bangalore, Dated 14th day of March 2025.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KRISHNAN UMA SANKAR,** aged about 55 years S/o Krishnan Nair, residing at #70, 6th Main, Venkatamma MSR colony, Near Ramaiah Samadi, Mattikere, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560054. My son name is **KAILASH SANKAR** as per his Aadhar Card No. 9860 5528 2661, as per SSLC Mark Sheet, Roll No.18114023, and this name is mentioned all his valuable documents but its wrongly mentioned, in his Passport No.T7549234 as **KAILASH SANKAR UMASANKAR.** I will re-congnised and continued his name is **KAILASH SANKAR** for all records, as per his all records. Swron vide affidavit dated: 14.03.2025 before the Advocae & notary Chandrakala at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SARIKA SINHA** W/o **Abhishek Kumar** aged about 35 Years R/at No.1288, ISEC Main Road, Nagarbhavi Village, Bengaluru- 560072, have changed my name to **SARIKA MITRA** vide affidavit dated: 15/3/2025 Before Notary **M.K.Devaki** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MR. T ARUL EUGINE**, age 45 years, S/o C. Thankappen, R/at Melvin and Alston Mansion, 2nd Floor Gare Chinnappa Street, Mariyannapalya, Hebbal Village, H A Farm Post, Bengaluru-560 024 do hereby declare that all the names of my father i.e. **THANKAPPAN** and **THANKAPPAN CHELLAIAH** and **C THANKAPPAN** are all one and the same person and it belongs to my father only, I have changed my father's name from **THANKAPPAN** to **THANKAPPAN CHELLAIAH**, henceforth my father name shall be known and called as **THANKAPPAN CHELLAIAH** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 14-03-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **L.B. ANASUYAMMA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SRIKANTH. B. M, S/o B. Malyadri aged about 40 years, residing at No. 1, SMS Nilaya, Muneshwara Layout, RR School Main Road, Doddabommasandra, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bangalore - 560097. have changed my minor son's name from **Shashank Bandlamudi** to **Pranav Bandlamudi,** vide affidavit dated 14/3/2025 sworn to before B.Prasanna Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **CHANDRA SHEKAR L**, S/o. Viswanatha Shetty , aged about 56 years, residing at No. 36, 10th Ward, Vakkaligara Vijipura, Bengaluru-562135, do hereby declare that, my name is **MADAVAIAH SHETTY** and same is recorded in my school that time I used to put my signature as in the same name. After wards, its wrongly mentioned in Aadhar card my name as **CHANDRA SHEKAR L**. I hereby submit that **MADAVAIAH SHETTY** and **CHANDRA SHEKAR L** are of the names of one and the same person i.e myself and not of any others or of any body's name. Vide affidavit dated 14.03.2025 sworn to before P.N. Nagesha, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUMATHI**, W/o. Ramakrishna Rayanayak and Residing at Kallanayakana Katte, Nilavagilu, Chikkamagaluru - 577 120, Karnataka, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SUMATHI NAYAK** to **SUMATHI** vide affidavit dated 15.03.2025 sworn to before M. Radhamma, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VIRALKUMAR NARSINH THAKOR, S/o Mr. Narsinh Saburbhai Thakor, aged about 31 years, DOB: 11-08-1993 and resident of Flat No.1B- 807, Suncity Gloria Apartments, Carmelaram Bengaluru, 560035 have changed my name to VIRAL NARSINHBHAI THAKOR vide affidavit dated: 15.03.2025 before advocate and notary B.M. Chandrashekar. Bengaluru.**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Smt Petrucia Sheela David W/o Arul Prakasam D aged about 36 yrs, resided at. # 25 4th cross near railway bridge Lakshmi layout Munnekolala Bangalore north Marathahalli Colony Bangalore - 560037, have changed my name from **Petrucia Sheela David** to **Petrucia Sheela,** vide affidavit dated 14/3/2025 sworn to before B.M.Chandrashekar Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) MOHAMMED TAUSEF** residing at No.20, 1st Floor, 6th Main Road, 9th F Main, (Mashallah Building BTM 1st Stage, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka -560029, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) MOHAMMED TAUSEF** to **(NEW NAME) MOHAMMED TAUSEEF** vide affidavit dated 13.03.2025 sworn before Notary Harisha G., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VIPIN KUMAR NAIR** aged about 54 years, S/o **Ramakrishnan Nair,** R/at No.71 Sai Krupa Crown Enclave, Gaddige Road, Martikyathanahalli, Mysuru City- 570026 today camping at Bangalore have changed my name to **VIPIN RAMAKRISHNAN NAIR** vide affidavit dated: 15/3/2025 Before Notary **Meer Hassan** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Miss SATHYA SHREE M,** aged about 24 years, D/o Mukunda, R/at No. 59, 4th Cross, Kuvempu Layout, Near Sangeetha Mobiles, Hebbal, Kempapura, H A Farm, Bangalore-560 024 do hereby declare that I have changed my father's name from **VENKATARAJU** to **MUKUNDA**, henceforth my father name shall be known and called as **MUKUNDA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 14-03-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **L.B. ANASUYAMMA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, BASEERA BANU W/o Nisar Sab, aged about 55 years, Residing at No.60, 5th Floor, Bait Al-Ameen Apartment, Green Orchid Layout, (BHEL Layout) Bengaluru - 560 041, have changed my name from **BASIRA BANU** to **BASEERA BANU,** vide affidavit dated 15/3/2025 sworn to before R.S.Vijay Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mrs. ESHWARI LAKUR KARTHIK** W/o. Karthik Lakur Balaraj, resident of Prestige Falcon City 11284 Tower 1, Building 1, Konankunte Cross, Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru - 560 062, do hereby declare that I have changed my son's name from **SRI VALLABHA L (SRI VALLABHA LAKUR)** to **SRI VALLABHA L K (SRI VALLABHA LAKUR KARTHIK)** vide affidavit dated 15.03.2025 sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAMAKRISHNA RAYA NAYAK** S/o. Rayanayak and Residing at Kallanayakana Katte, Nilavagilu, Chikkamagaluru - 577 120, Karnataka, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **RAMAKRISHNA NAYAK** to **RAMAKRISHNA RAYA NAYAK** vide affidavit dated 15.03.2025 sworn to before M. Radhamma, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SREELAKSHMI TAPPETA, aged about 44 years, W/o LAKSHMI NARAYANA REDDY HIREGOWDRA, resident of Kalki Nivas No 321 6th Main Road, Pragathi Layout, Muddinapalya Viswaneedam, Bangalore- 560091, have changed my name to SREELAKSHMI HIREGOWDRA vide affidavit dated: 11.03.2025 before advocate and notary S.T. THIPPESWAMY, Bengaluru.**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SMT. JOSPHINE LEENA Mother of RYAANRAAJ XAVIER S, Resident Door No. 1120, 26TH B main road, Jayanagar, 9th block, Bangalore - 560 069, I declare that have changed my minor son's name from **RYAANRAAJ XAVIER S** to **JOSEPH RYAAN RAJ,** vide affidavit dated 14/3/2025 sworn to before B.M.Chandrashekar Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MANGALA SHETTY**, R/o No.349, 15th Main, 1st Block, 3rd Stage, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru 560079 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MANGALA VINAYAKA SHETTY** to **MANGALA SHETTY**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **MANGALA SHETTY** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 14th March 2025, sworn before Notary **RATNA N** at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHANTHA KUMAR,** S/o. Krishna Reddy, residing at #23, 1st Cross, Ground Floor, Lingarajapuram, Bengaluru 560084, have changed my name to **SHANTHA KUMAR KRISHNA REDDY** vide Affidavit Dated: 14/03/2025, sworn before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Sri SURESH M,** age 43 years, S/o Mahadevappa, r/at No. 363/4, HM Nayaka Road, Gavi Gangadhara Temple, Lakshmipura, Bangalore-560 019 do hereby declare that my daughter's correct name is **S. MANVITHA**, but by oversight in her birth certificate her name is wrongly mentioned as **MANU** instead of **S. MANVITHA**, vide affidavit dated 15-03-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **V. RANGARAJU** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PRAVIN PRAKASH BHANDARE** (new name) previously called PRAVIN BHANDARE (old name) son of Prakash Bhandare, aged about 35 years, residing at Flat No 803, Block.1, Phase-1, BDA Apartment, Kommaghatta, Sulike Post, Kengeri, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560060. Have changed My name from **PRAVIN BHANDARE to PRAVIN PRAKASH BHANDARE** for all purposes vide affidavit dated 14-03-2025 sworn before Advocate & Notary RAVI, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BABY NUZHATH**, W/o. Mohammed Farooq and Residing at No. 141/1 B, No. 4th Street, Halasuru, Bangalore - 560 008, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **NUZHATH** to **BABY NUZHATH** vide affidavit dated 15.03.2025 sworn to before M. Radhamma, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, VINAYKUMAR BELLAD S/o IRANNABABURAO BELLAD aged about 38 years, residing at No. 436, Banavsi Road Sirsi, Pavan Prints Shop, Uttarkannada District, SirSi, Karnataka 581401, I have declared my name VINAYKUMAR IRANNA BELLAD on my earlier passport. My Pan and Aadhar reflects the correct name as VINAYKUMAR BELLAD & my father's name is IRANNABABURAO BELLAD, this is reflected in my aadhar card and pan card, earlier the passport had my father's name as IRANNA. They are one and the same vide affidavit dated 12/03/2025 sworn before advocate and notary D. Rajanna, Bengaluru.

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DHRUVA SARJA JOINS ARJUN SARJA IN *SEETHA PAYANA*

A SHARADHAA

This trilingual film, starring Aishwarya and Niranjan Sudhindra, will feature Dhruva in a key cameo role

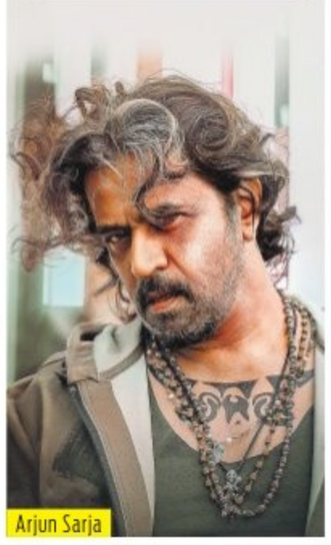
ARJUN Sarja's next directorial, *Seetha Payana*, starring his daughter Aishwarya Arjun and Niranjan Sudhindra (the nephew of Upendra), also features Arjun himself in a pivotal role. The cast has grown even larger with the addition of Dhruva Sarja. The Action Prince of the Kannada industry will make a special guest appearance in his uncle Arjun's film and will begin filming today. Dhruva has maintained a strong bond with his uncle over the years. He ensures that each of his stories goes through Arjun Sarja, seeking his suggestions and guidance for every project. Dhruva considers Arjun a major inspiration in his career and values the latter's inputs. His mentorship has played an important role in shaping Dhruva's career.

Dhruva had appeared in Arjun Sarja's last film, Prema Baraha, where he had a brief presence in a song. However, in *Seetha Payana*, Dhruva will have a more important role, which will include a fight sequence, and he will begin shooting his portions today.

Dhruva Sarja is gearing up for his upcoming movie *KD*, directed by Prem. The film is expected to release in May in multiple languages under the KVN Productions banner. Some popular actors from Kannada and Hindi cinema, including Sanjay Dutt and Shilpa Shetty, are also part of the project.

Seetha Payana is being produced under Arjun Sarja's production banner, Sree Raam Films International. The film is a trilingual project, being made in Kannada, Tamil, and Telugu. The shooting is now in its final stages. The film's music is scored by Anup Rubens.

Dhruva Sarja


Arjun Sarja

A still from the film

Nithyaprakash Bantwal set for big screen debut in Tulu and Kannada

The newbie is overwhelmed to get a break in two languages, with a role in Vikhyath's directorial *Your's Sincerely Raam* and the opportunity to work alongside Ganesh

CE FEATURES

NITHYAPRAKASH Bantwal is over the moon, calling his current journey a 'double dhamaka' as he balances two exciting ventures: photography and acting. The newbie, who is making his debut in the Tulu film industry, is halfway through production. Meanwhile, a sneak peek of his work caught the attention of *Your's Sincerely Raam* director Vikhyath AR, who was quick to offer him a role in his film. The film, which stars Ganesh and Ramesh Aravind, also gives Nithyaprakash a break in his first Kannada film, which is set to star him in a significant role.

Having started his career in photography, Nithyaprakash is overwhelmed by the opportunities he receives. "It's beyond exciting to be making a mark in not just one but two languages, and to work alongside Ganesh is a dream come true," he shares with CE.

He adds, "What makes my Tulu debut even more special is that it's produced by Golden Movies, backed by Ganesh and his wife Shilpa. This project holds immense significance for us, especially since it's a film for the coastal belt. It's even more thrilling to start my journey from my hometown and debut in my mother tongue. It's a family drama, and though the title is yet to be revealed, the first-hand experience has been great."

Adding another hint of excitement, Nithyaprakash reveals that Ganesh will have a cameo in the Tulu film, with the actor's portions set to be shot in April, when the second schedule begins.

Equally thrilled about his Kannada debut, Nithyaprakash expresses his gratitude. "I'm excited to be part of *Your's Sincerely Raam*, and working alongside Ganesh, a huge star, is an honour. I'm grateful to Vikhyath for considering me based on my talent. I can't wait to start shooting when the schedule is locked."

Your's Sincerely Raam, produced by Satya Rayala under The Rayala Studios, is set in the 1990s. Naveen Kumar handles the cinematography, while Anoop Seelin is composing the music. This film also marks the return of Meera Jasmine to the Kannada film industry, with Nithyaprakash being the latest to join the cast.

Nithyaprakash Bantwal

Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari gets new release date

CE FEATURES

THE Varun Dhawan, Janhvi Kapoor, Sanya Malhotra and Rohit Saraf starrer *Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari* has a new release date. The film, directed by Shashank Khaitan (*Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania, Badrinath Ki Dulhania, Dhadak*), was earlier scheduled to release on April 18 but will now hit the theatres on September 12 instead.

Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari marks the second collaboration between Varun and Janhvi, following their first film together, Bawaal, directed by Nitesh Tiwari. The film also features Akshay Oberoi, Abhinav Sharma, Maniesh Paul, and Manini Chadha in pivotal roles.

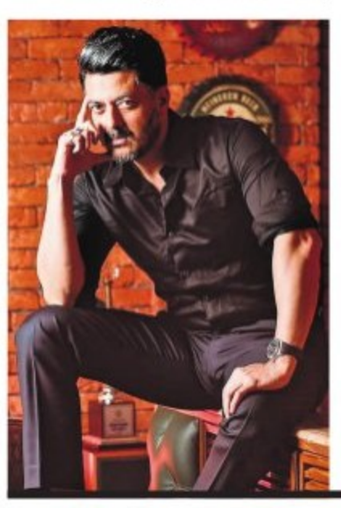
The official plot has been kept under wraps, but as per reports, the film revolves around Sunny (Varun) and Tulsi Kumari (Janhvi), two people with opposite personalities. Sunny is a fun-loving and carefree guy, while Tulsi is a cultured and serious girl. Destiny brings them together, and they fall in love.

Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari is produced by Hiroo Yash Johar, Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta and Shashank Khaitan.

Jisshu Sengupta joins Akshay Kumar in *Bhooth Bangla*

CE FEATURES

BENGALI actor Jisshu Sengupta has joined the cast of Akshay Kumar's *Bhooth Bangla*, the makers announced on the actor's birthday on Saturday. Directed by Priyadarshan, the horror-comedy also stars Tabu, Paresh Rawal, Mithila Palkar, and Wamiqa Gabbi



Sharing a photo of Jisshu, the makers wrote, "Wishing the brilliant Jisshu Sengupta a very happy birthday! Excited to see him bring his magic to *Bhooth Bangla*, it's going to be a wild ride." Jisshu is known for acting in Hindi films like *Barfi!*, *Manikarnika*, Piku and Mardaani 2 among others.

Bhooth Bangla marks Akshay's seventh collaboration with Priyadarshan. The actor-director have previously worked on acclaimed comedies like *Hera Pheri* (2000), *Garam Masala* (2005), Bhagam Bhag (2006), *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* (2007), *De Dana Dan* (2009) and *Khatta Meetha* (2010).

The film has been produced by Ektaa R Kapoor's Balaji Motion Pictures, Akshay's Cape Of Good Films and co-produced by Faara Sheikh and Vedant Baali. It is scheduled to release in theatres on April 2, 2026.

Vamshi

Niveditha's maiden production *Firefly* gets release date

Shivarajkumar expresses his happiness, saying that his daughter's film release coincides with Dr Rajkumar's birth anniversary

CE FEATURES

FIREFLY, the debut offering from Niveditha Shivarajkumar under the Shri Mutthu Cine Services banner, is gearing up to light up the silver screen on April 24. The film's release is especially significant as it coincides with the birth anniversary of the legendary Dr Rajkumar. The film, whose teaser has captivated audiences, stars Vamshi in the lead role, and he also takes on the role of the director. The film features an ensemble cast that includes Achyuth Kumar, Sudharani, Rachana Inder, Sheetal Shetty, Anand Ninasam, Chitkala Biradar, and Moogu Suresh in prominent roles.

Speaking about the film's core elements, Dr Shivarajkumar stated, "*Firefly* delves into the themes of grief and healing, with a narrative that strikes a balance between depth and simplicity. I am confident it will resonate with everyone."

On the significance of its release, Shivarajkumar shared, "It's a deeply special moment for me to see my daughter's first film come out on Appaji's birthday. The love our family has received over the years is a gift from Appaji, and it is heartening to see that warmth passed on to the next generation. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the fans and Kannada cinema enthusiasts for their unwavering support."

The film's music is composed by Charan Raj, and its first single is slated for release on Anand Audio's YouTube channel in the final week of March. The film's crew includes cinematographer Abhilash Kalathi, dialogue writer Raghu Niduvalli, editor Suresh Armugam, art director Varadaraj Kamath, action choreographer Arjun Raj, and dance choreographer Rahul Master.

A family-oriented entertainer, the film's makers are confident that it will strike a chord with viewers of all ages.